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20 APRIL 1987

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KHARTOUM CONFERENCE DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARAB WORLD

Magazine Discusses Coverage of Meeting

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 6 Feb 87 p 3

[Editorial: "From the Editor's Desk"]

[Text] "Is it conceivable that AL-MUSAWWAR will publish an article about the first general assembly of the Arab Human Rights Organization [AHRO]? Tell us anything else and we'll believe it!"

This was the question our colleague Yusuf al-Qa'id, AL-MUSAWWAR's literary editor, heard throughout 6 days he spent in Khartoum, where he went, not in his capacity as a member of AHRO, but on assignment to cover the organization's first general assembly for al-Hilal Publishing House.

Inasmuch as the general assembly was attended by 100 Arab public figures, the same question was raised over the course of 6 days and nights 100 times and more.

Our colleague tried to close some new and old gaps in contemporary memory. He told them that AL-MUSAWWAR was the only publication in the Egyptian press, including the opposition newspapers--and, indeed, the only one among Arabic newspapers published in the Arab world or abroad--to publish an article by Dr Muhammad Nur Farhat about how the first general assembly was not held in Cairo.

The reply to him was: "That article is old and done with. As for the Khartoum general assembly, there will be only a media blackout."

Yusuf al-Qa'id returned from Khartoum last Monday afternoon; and, even though the edition was ready to go to press--indeed, the color pages had actually been printed--some material in the edition was preempted to make room for this story.

Hence, no sooner had last Monday evening come around--i.e., a few hours after the general assembly had concluded its work--than the recently modernized presses of al-Hilal Publishing House began rolling to print an edition of

AL-MUSAWWAR with a surprise story: a last-minute story on the general assembly of the Arab Human Rights Organization.

An attempt was made to make this story the main cover story, but we were in a race with time. Changing the cover that had already been printed might have delayed publication.

We are not saying and doing this to boast or to outbid anyone. We are doing it on the premise of a fundamental truth: that the Arab person is the real hope for any Arab reality. The setbacks suffered by the Arab nation's march toward independence, justice, and development are basically due to the crime of relegating the Arab person to the sidelines and depriving him of his rights and basic freedoms.

Increased subjugation of the Arab person can only compound the dangers and tighten the siege imposed by the powers of foreign hegemony.

There can be a way out of the current Arab dilemma and a way to break the siege, be it internal or external, only if the Arab person regains his rights and basic freedoms and is enabled to participate in and contribute to the building of the country at home and its defense abroad.

A subjugated person can carry stones, but he cannot soar. He who has lost his freedom has no interest in defending the country's freedom when it is assaulted.

Hence, this is where we begin, by making the ordinary Arab person and his rights the starting point. There is no other option left.

Report on Conference from Khartoum

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 6 Feb 87 pp 14-16

[Article by Yusuf al-Qa'id: "What Has Happened to Human Rights in the Arab World? Grievous Human Rights Violations in Syria, Libya, and Occupied Palestine"]

[Text] This Monday, the activities of the first general assembly of the Arab Human Rights Organization ended in Khartoum. The activities of the general assembly began on Friday with a speech by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi of the Sudan and ended with the issuance of a press statement by the meeting.

During 2 days of intensive activity, a new Council of Secretaries was elected. Fathi Radwan was reelected president of the organization, and an Executive Committee was chosen.

In the election, Muhammad Fa'iq won with 55 out of 58 votes, thereby obtaining the highest number of votes. He was followed by Faruq Abu-'Isa (Sudan), who won 52 votes; then came Dr Su'ad al-Sabah (Kuwait), with 51 votes; then Fathi Radwan (Egypt), with 49 votes.

The Council of Secretaries, in turn, elected the Executive Committee of the organization, in which Fathi Radwan was elected president unanimously and Muhammad Fa'iq general secretary. Adib al-Jadir (Iraq) was elected vice-president, and Dr Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajjani (Palestine) was elected treasurer. Also elected as members were: Faruq Abu-'Isa (Sudan), and Dr Su'ad al-Sabah (Kuwait).

An attempt was made by Dr Khayr-al-Din Hasib of Iraq to introduce a prearranged election list from which Fathi Radwan, the president of the organization, had been excluded. There was a Palestinian attempt to approve a geographical map of members before conducting the elections. The purpose of this was to restrict the Egyptian presence in the organization. The first attempt was blocked by Professor Dr Sayyid 'Abd-al-Rasul of al-Zaqaziq University, the well-known writer Kamil Zuhayri, and Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Saqqaf (Yemen).

Fathi Radwan, one of the sons of Egyptian nationalism, replied to Dr Mandur 'Anbatawi, rejecting the idea of any list, because it would be at the expense of the freedom and spontaneity of the election.

Defenders of the Human Person

The idea of establishing this organization crystallized in 1983 at a gathering that brought together many Arab intellectuals at al-Hammamat, Tunisia, in April 1983. About 100 Arabs met as a founding convention in Limassol, Cyprus, and announced the formation of an Arab organization to defend human rights. The organization defined its goals in a call for respecting basic human rights and freedoms in the Arab homeland for all workers and persons on its territory, in accordance with provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international charters that have been promulgated. The organization works through various media of communication to deepen the Arab citizen's consciousness of his legitimate rights, to strengthen ties of cooperation and coordination with organizations and associations active in the field of human rights, and to obtain the release of persons whose freedom is being restricted or who are being subjected to torture or cruel treatment because of their beliefs, affiliations, or nationality. To this end, the organization uses all means of opposition. It opposes any measures or trials involving issues of opinion or other issues of a political nature where guarantees of a just trial are not present. It gives legal aid to such people and calls for the improvement of the condition of political prisoners.

However, realizing the goals of the organization is not something easy. Arab public opinion does not welcome them; and Arab political and geographical diversity, the differing margin of freedom, and the mutual separation of Arab axes--all these things represent additional burdens for the organization.

During these 3 years, the organization has received 155 complaints and reports from associations and individuals from 19 Arab states. Action taken by the organization in response to these complaints has included: addresses to Arab governments and Arab and corresponding international organizations, sending lawyers to attend trials, inspecting the condition of prisoners, and publicity in the organization's publications.

The basic document at the general assembly consisted of a report in 120 large-format pages entitled, "Human Rights in the Arab Homeland: the Organization and the Current Challenges." The largest part of the report was occupied by an analysis of the state of human rights in the Arab homeland.

The report not only discusses political and civil rights, it also devotes space to economic and social rights. Some of the phenomena it discusses relate to the expatriate Arab work force. Second, there is the crisis of Arab trade union activity. Third, there is the position of the Arab woman, who is subject to a twofold subjugation. Fourth, there is the forced emigration of some Arab citizens from their countries.

These are merely some samples of the state of human rights in our Arab community now.

Syria

Since 1962, Syria has been applying the Emergency Law, which enables the arrest and imprisonment of anyone who is suspect or dangerous to security and public order. It allows persons and places to be searched without restriction by the provisions of the criminal code. The law also empowers the ruler or his deputy to criminalize actions or derelictions, with their punishment not to exceed 3 years' imprisonment. Persons charged under this law, whatever their status, are handed over to military court.

Under the Emergency Law, there is no clear limit to the amount of time an imprisoned person can remain in the hands of the security forces. This period can extend anywhere from days to several years.

By virtue of this law, the attitude of Syrian authorities toward people arrested can vary from depriving them of their legal right to appeal or seek the help of a lawyer during the period of preventive detention, to depriving them of their right to bring a complaint before an external body. They can likewise be deprived of their right to appeal sentences issued by the State Security Supreme Court, not to mention the fact that in some cases accused persons are kept in custody without trial for a period longer than that of the actual sentence that was going to be imposed on them.

The Syrian opposition complains of the widening range of executions. It mentions that these are usually carried out against opposition political elements after sham trials conducted before military or state security courts in the absence of all legal guarantees. The purpose of these trials is usually to issue a death sentence, which is carried out immediately and in the same prison.

Among the methods used by military intelligence and political security to get rid of opponents is what happened to 70 members of the Syrian Communist Party, the "Politburo." They were arrested in al-Ladhiqiyah during April 1982, at which time the Syrian authorities tried to force them by torture to sign a statement of resignation from the party and of support for the government. In

the course of torture, Amin al-Nasur was killed. His body was thrown from the third floor of the hospital to make it look as if he had committed suicide.

Beginning in 1979, the Syrian regime carried out a series of individual and group executions. The phenomenon lasted 3 years and included many party members, trade unionists, soldiers, opposition figures, and people whose loyalty the government doubted. Furthermore, as a consequence of the issuance of a law mandating death for members of the Muslim Brotherhood, many of its members were executed as soon as they were arrested.

Hangings without trial are considered a normal matter at Tudmur Prison, where officials claim that some prisoners were wanted for trial at the time they were executed. Among those executed were about 38 youths at the beginning of 1984. They had been arrested during antigovernment demonstrations in Dayr al-Zawr, remained several months at an unknown location, and then were transferred to Tudmur Prison, where they were executed. In addition, 50 political prisoners were executed in al-Shaykh Miskin Prison in Damascus in June 1985, after they had been given a choice between stopping a hunger strike in protest over the decline in living and sanitary conditions in the prison, or death. They were subjected to a hail of machine gun fire and killed instantly.

Sources estimate the number of political prisoners in Syria at thousands from differing political currents. Their fate is still unknown. Tudmur Prison alone holds several thousand prisoners.

After issuance of 1980 Law 39, which retroactively mandated the imposition of the death penalty on any member of the Muslim Brotherhood, members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria have been subjected to physical liquidation or frequent imprisonment after being charged with responsibility for the bombings and assassinations that took place between 1975 and 1983. These liquidations and imprisonments included thousands of members of the organization, from leaders down to anyone whose membership in the organization was demonstrated.

The military repression and search-and-confiscate operations to which Syrian cities were subjected during 1981-1982 and which affected all residents of these cities can be considered the summit of the Syrian regime's escalation of the liquidation campaigns against the religious and secular political opposition. These campaigns climaxed in the Hamah massacre (March 1982), whose victims are estimated in the thousands by some sources. Sources also mention an earlier massacre at Tudmur Prison, with 700 people killed in their cells, a massacre at Sar Madar, one at Jisr al-Shu'ur, and an old one at Halab cemetery.

The Syrian Communist Party (the "Politburo") was the first nonreligious party to be subjected to repression and imprisonments. Since 1980, hundreds of its members have been arrested, including all members of the Politburo and a large part of the members of the Central Committee. They are still in prison. They are constantly subjected to torture and pressure, with the aim of forcing them to write a political statement condemning the party line and proclaiming their loyalty to President al-Asad. Among them is Riyadh al-Turk, party general secretary, who is said to have lost his hearing and to have been taken to the

hospital several times in critical condition. Amnesty International has issued several emergency appeals to save his life from danger, but to no avail. Among them, too, are the trade union leader 'Umar al-Qashshash and the physician Fa'iz al-Fawwaz, as well as Faysal Tahhan and Mufid Qanjari, both of whom have lost their sight as a result of torture.

The arrests have also targeted the Communist Labor Party, an opposition Marxist-Leninist organization, since its foundation in 1976. According to its own sources, it was subjected to nine liquidation operations during the period between 1977 and 1986, the last of these being the campaign of arrests against its members during the period between February and March of 1986. The operation began in al-Yarmuk Camp, Damascus, and Jaramana Camp, and the number of men and women imprisoned had reached over 180 by 7 May 1986. About half of them were released after weeks of subjection to many kinds of physical and mental torture, which led to the death of some of the prisoners (Sulayman Ghabur, from the village of 'Aqarib). Amnesty International has adopted some of the prisoners, considering them prisoners of conscience.

The arrests have also included the Nasirites. Some have been under arrest since the well-known strike of the professional unions in 1980 and are still in prison. According to complaints received by the organization, the Nasirites were recently subjected to a new campaign of arrests during September 1986. Seventy people were arrested, and they were charged with belonging to the Popular Nasirite Organization in Syria. Among them were a number of physicians, lawyers, engineers, teachers, and workers.

The arrests have also included professional unions. In the wake of the 1980 strike in which the unions of lawyers, physicians, engineers, and dentists participated, and which called for repeal of the state of emergency in the country, a large number of union members were imprisoned. A large number of them were also physically liquidated, including Dr Muhammad al-Shishikli, whose body was mutilated. Most of those arrested are still in prison. In spite of the urging of the Union of Arab Lawyers and other organizations concerned about human rights, not until recently were even a few of them released.

The arrests also included the members of the Syrian Human Rights League, and the league was finally dissolved.

Reports reaching Amnesty International agree that prisoners are tortured after arrest and during the period of their confinement. Torture is used for the purpose of extracting confessions, as well as a means of deterrence and punishment. Torture is used against prisoners of varying ages and professions. This includes those who are accused of membership in one of the parties or organizations, whether secret or public. It also includes the families of certain political opponents, they being detained as hostages until the politically active member of the family is arrested. The various forms of torture run from electrical shock to violent beating and threats.

Concerning the conditions of prisoners in Syrian prisons, the reports state that they are deprived of necessary medical care and treatment during the initial stage of their imprisonment and that it is difficult to obtain

necessary medicines. This has led to the deterioration of the health of certain imprisoned political personalities, such as former President Nur-al-Din al-Atasi, who is suffering from severe diabetes, Riyad al-Turk, first secretary of the Politburo of the Syrian Communist Party, and Muwaffaq-al-Din al-Kuzbari, president of the League for the Care of Prisoners and first secretary of the Syrian Human Rights Defense League.

The unavailability of health care in prisons has led to the spread of many diseases in the prisons. Some prisoners have fallen victim to cholera. Another person died because of general weakness and malnutrition. Reports reaching Amnesty International also indicate that torture in Syrian prisons has led to the death of a number of political prisoners. The organization has issued appeals to the Syrian government on behalf of Nur-al-Din al-Atasi, who has been imprisoned for 15 years and is suffering from dangerous illnesses, and on behalf of Riyad al-Turk, first secretary of the Politburo of the Communist Party, whose life was in grave danger after he was tortured in military intelligence headquarters, Damascus, in December 1982. Appeals were also issued in April and August of 1984 on behalf of others, members of the Communist Labor Party who were subjected to torture.

Since 1980, Amnesty International has been imploring the Syrian government to stop employing torture and violating the human rights of Syrian citizens in prison. The organization sent the Syrian government a note in April 1982, imploring it to stop these violations. Amnesty International attached to its note the testimony of some political prisoners, as well as the results of medical examinations performed on them. The organization drew the Syrian government's attention to the general observations compiled by the UN Human Rights Committee on 27 July 1986 and advised that cases of torture be investigated and that the perpetrators of such crimes be punished and the torture victims compensated in accordance with Article 11 of the International Declaration Against Torture. All of the organization's reports concerning Syria point to the prevalence of repeated cases of torture in Syrian prisons.

In the register of the UN Human Rights Committee's group on cases of disappearance, there are a number of cases of disappearance relating to Syria. Since 1982, the group has forwarded to the Syrian government reports of three cases of forced disappearance said to have occurred in 1980.

The Arab Human Rights Organization has received many complaints about violations occurring in Syria. It has repeatedly addressed the Syrian authorities about these complaints. It has addressed President Hafiz al-Asad and sent him many pleas, but it has received no response to its correspondence.

Occupied Palestine

There is no doubt that the greatest violation of Palestinians' human rights lies in the continued occupation of their land and their deprivation of the legitimate right to self-determination and to return to their homeland.

It is natural that the area of human rights should be one of the areas in which the effects of a people's subjection to the most complex form of

imperialism (colonization) is most apparent. The Palestinian person faces a distinctive situation which makes the problem of human rights there a special problem differing in kind from the problem of human rights in other regions and states. This essential difference rests not only on the fact that these regions lie under the military occupation of a foreign state, but also on the nature and goals of this occupation.

As a result, the violations to which the Palestinian people are subjected are more than miscellaneous incidents here or there and more than merely arbitrary measures or unfair legislation. These violations extend to include the people's right to exist at all.

Not to mention their occupation of Arab lands by force, the "Israeli" authorities have undertaken land confiscation operations.

As everyone knows, the Arabs inside occupied Palestine enjoy no rights to independent political action. The only channel open to them is joining the Israeli parties, for the laws definitely forbid the formation of Arab parties or independent Arab union organizations and force workers to join the Histadrut.

Israeli authorities have also forbidden the formation of any political parties on the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip. They halted municipal council elections after the election of PLO supporters as leading members of these councils in 1976. Most of them were removed from office and replaced by officers of the Israeli army of occupation. Some elected heads of municipalities were banished from the country or assassinated.

As for the right to organize unions, in addition to the measures dissolving unions (40 have been dissolved) and forcing them to freeze their activities by forbidding them to form new unions or register new members in the old unions, the Israeli "labor officers" have authority to remove any name from the lists of candidates for union leadership positions.

Palestinians in the occupied territories are subject to military rule. Military rule in Israel is based on 170 laws, laws that discuss matters of censorship, limit freedom of movement, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press in all its aspects, supervise the means of transportation, and regulate the use of weapons.

Military courts handle the enforcement of these laws. The defense minister appoints military governors to specific areas. These courts are composed of a president with the rank of field officer, and two members (or even a single person) with the rank of officer.

The occupation authorities are not content with imposing strict censorship in advance on every word before it is printed, including sports articles and advertisements, with the average percentage of material forbidden publication in a single issue reaching 35 percent of the issue. Newspapers are also subject to withdrawal of their licence to publish (this has happened to five newspapers and magazines), to long periods of closure sometimes reaching

months, and to repeated periods of being forbidden distribution within the West Bank and Gaza.

As the Palestinian people's vital artery of development and growth in various fields, Palestinian educational institutions are subjected to attempts to empty them of their academic content.

These institutions have been placed under the direct supervision of the military governor of the West Bank and Gaza, who has authority to withdraw the licence of any university, intervene in the choice of professors, teachers, employees, and students, to dismiss them or force them into retirement, and to supervise textbooks and university entry permits.

In the area of textbooks, by virtue of the supervision of the military governor, the circulation of many books has been forbidden (94 books have been banned from circulation), as well as every geographical atlas at variance with Israeli developments for "Greater Israel." In addition, 5,410 cultural books have been banned from school libraries.

Everything relating to the Palestinian issue has been suppressed from the curriculum, including the name "Palestine," which has been replaced by "Israel." Palestinians are taught the history of just about every people, but not their own history. Also suppressed are the Qur'anic verses that incite to holy war and sacrifice.

Obviously, if this is the state of general freedoms, the freedom of religious belief is suffering restrictions no less severe.

The reports agree that torture, mistreatment, and violence are widespread in the prisons of Hebron, Nablus, Tulkarm, Janin, Ramallah, Ramla, and Rafah. In addition to this list, there is now the military prison in 'Atlit, where those formerly imprisoned in Ansar are being held.

As was not the case with other prisons known to history, torture in the occupation prisons is not inevitably linked to the question of a confession. Torture begins from the moment the prisoner reaches the prison and can continue even after the prisoner confesses to what those in charge of torture wish. The extraction of a confession is not the final goal; it is a stage in the process of slowly destroying the person himself mentally or physically.

Sometimes a captive is tortured without any confession being demanded from him. At other times, a list with a number of charges is placed before him for the captive to choose for himself, with the prodding of torture, the charge he thinks "appropriate" for him to confess to. In yet other instances, torture is employed so that the man will confess to fantastic things, as happened with the student who was tortured in 1984 so that he would acknowledge his role in the 1981 assassination of al-Sadat and in the 1982 assassination of Bashir al-Jumayyil.

Among the most prominent means of torture are attempts to rape men and women, the insertion of sticks into the anus or vagina, the placing of burning objects on sensitive parts of the body, dragging on the ground, electrical

burns and shocks, the setting loose of ferocious dogs trained specifically to bite the genitals, the injection of drugs that cause severe pain and nervous excitement that can lead to insanity, random group beatings with rifle butts, clubs, and iron chains, sometimes with the help of gangs of settlers, felons, or prostitutes, and offering the sick and dangerously wounded their lives in return for a confession or work as a spy.

Libya

There is no judicial system in Libya like the internationally recognized systems and which would be able to protect the rights of accused persons. There are the revolutionary courts, comprised exclusively of fervent advocates of the regime. The sentences of these courts are considered final; they cannot be overturned or appealed. One of the most serious things that happens in these courts is the possibility of retrying certain previously tried and sentenced prisoners, even when the prisoner in question has in fact served out the time of his sentence.

It should be mentioned that the General People's Conference has issued a resolution for the liquidation of Libyans abroad. When Amnesty International sent a delegation to the Libyan government to discuss the question of physical liquidations with it, officials in Libya asserted that, in accordance with the third theory contained in "The Green Book," the people are the source of authority, and that, the people themselves through their revolutionary committees having adopted the program of physically liquidating opponents of the revolution, political assassination had become an established principle to which the government was committed.

In the area of civil and political rights, there is no feeling on the part of the citizen of his right to freedom and security of person, especially if he has interests in public affairs and opinions differing from those espoused by the regime, or if he tries to exercise some of the political rights usual in modern constitutions or in the international agreements to which Libya has committed itself before the international community, such as the International Agreement on Civil and Political Human Rights.

Arrests

The Libyan Committee for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights estimates the number of political prisoners in Libyan prisons at no less than 4,000, either held on charges or merely on suspicion.

The 6 April 1984 communique of the Libyan Committee for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights states that there are hundreds of persons of various levels and ages--students, businessmen, technical and managerial cadres, and ordinary citizens--who have been confined for several years in Libyan prisons in Tripoli and Banghazi, in other secret prisons, and in prison camps. After being kidnapped or publicly arrested, some of these prisoners were handed over to the revolutionary investigating apparatus and were subjected to interrogations involving violence and brutal torture for long periods. Then they were put in prison without being presented for trial. Most of them have been given sentences ranging from 15 years to life

imprisonment or death. As for those condemned to lesser sentences at the beginning of the present regime, the Libyan authorities have refused to release them, in spite of their having served out the time of their punishment.

Newspaper sources have indicated that Libyan authorities arrested 200 persons with Islamic leanings in the wake of an unsuccessful attempted coup by the "National Front to Save Libya" on 8 May 1984. The same sources reported the imprisonment of 51 students between 1981 and 1983 without trial.

Amnesty International reports published in March 1985 indicate that 18 people were arrested in December 1978, among them 8 Libyan writers and journalists, after they participated in a Benghazi memorial celebration for the Libyan poet 'Ali Raji'i. The reports also state that these people were subjected to beatings and mistreatment. Each of them was kept in solitary confinement for 3 months. They were tried under Articles 2, 3, and 6 of 1972 Law 71, which forbids any political activity opposed to the principles of the 1 September Revolution, and were charged with founding an antigovernment Marxist organization. The eight writers and journalists, as well as five other persons, were sentenced to life imprisonment. The remaining five were acquitted, although no reports of their release have been received.

The Libyan Committee for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights indicates that 'Izz-al-Din Laghdami, Libya's former ambassador to Austria, was the subject of an attempted assassination at the hands of clients of the Libyan regime on 28 February 1985 in Austria.

In its 1 June 1986 edition, the magazine AL-YAWM AL-SABI' reported the murder of Muhammad 'Ashur, a former employee of the Libyan mission in Bonn, by Libyans working in the People's Liaison Bureau in East Berlin, because he had informed security agencies in West Berlin about Libyan activities in East Berlin. 'Ashur, who was a student at the Free University in West Berlin, was found shot to death in a public garden in East Berlin on 3 May 1986. The episode occurred a month after the bombing of the Discotheque (Labik) in West Berlin.

AHRO sources add a number of other cases. They can be summarized as follows:

1. Muhammad Mustafa was executed on the campus of Benghazi University, between the College of Law and the College of Letters, on 21 April 1984. The execution was supervised by someone called Ahmad al-Daraqli, a member of the revolutionary committee at the university, and by his wife, Hamidah al-Shuhaybi.
2. Rashid Mansur Ka'bar, a student at Tripoli University, was executed at Tripoli University College of Pharmacy on 16 April 1984. Elementary, intermediate, and high school students were brought to witness the spectacle.
3. Hafiz al-Madani was also executed in front of students at Tripoli University College of Agriculture.

A communique issued on 6 April 1984 by the Libyan Committee for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights reports that of 85 prisoners of conscience in 1983, nine were retried and given punishments more severe than the original ones, including the death penalty. Four of them were sentenced to death. They had been imprisoned since April 1982, charged with membership in the Islamic Liberation Party, the Marxist Party, and the Muslim Brotherhood.

The reports that have come out about torture and inhuman treatment have included some of the methods used by the authorities: beating and kicking while the prisoner is suspended on the wall, use of electrical shocks, threats of execution, and sexual assaults on the wives of prisoners in order to extract confessions. The marks left by torture were clearly visible on television when the confessions of some of the men arrested at al-'Aziziyah after the unsuccessful attempted coup were broadcast. The citizen 'Abd-al-Mun'im Qasim Najjar died after torture.

An appeal issued by the Libyan Committee for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights on 1 February 1984 indicates that a Libyan prisoner, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Aghrabli, a student, met his death in prison due to neglect and lack of care while he was ill.

Amnesty International reports state that in April 1982, three Libyan students--Salih al-Quwayniti, Ahmad Isma'il Makhluf, and Naji Yahuya--were arrested after a student demonstration at Banghazi University and died after torture. The bodies of the three victims were returned to their families at the end of July 1982.

The lawyer 'Amir Daghyas died in prison late in February 1980, after 3 days of interrogation.

Amnesty International indicates that torture takes place in the headquarters of the Libyan revolutionary committees and intelligence in Tripoli and Banghazi. Torture is constantly used to extract confessions and information about so-called enemies of the revolution.

In its June 1984 issue, the magazine ARABIA stated that Libyan authorities had arrested 16 students in 1980, 4 of whom had died under the pressure of torture.

In August 1985, Libyan authorities expelled 100,000 Tunisian and Egyptian workers from Libyan territory, confiscating \$60 million from these workers' deposits in Libyan banks.

AHRO has received a number of communiques from the Libyan Committee for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights criticizing a number of apparent human rights violations. These communiques include lists of the names of political prisoners in Libyan prisons from 1973 to 1984 and lists of others who were tortured to death, as well as attempted assassinations of political opponents abroad.

On 20 May 1984, AHRO sent a letter to the Libyan foreign minister asking for an explanation of the complaints contained in the 6 April 1984 complaint of the Libyan Committee for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights.

The organization's Council of Secretaries is expected to hold its first meeting this April in Cairo.

ELECTIONS, ECONOMIC OPTIONS DISCUSSED

Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Feb 87 pp 1, 6

[Article by Frederic Fritscher: "Algeria Heading Toward Realism"]

[Text] On Thursday 26 February, 885 candidates will go after the 295 seats in the Algerian Parliament (30 more than in the previous Assembly). Thus, voters will be able to choose between three individuals for each seat, although all of them have been selected by the single party, the National Liberation Front.

A choice was made initially by the kasma (the party's basic cells), which eliminated most of the 11,800 candidates. The selection procedure was continued in seven wilayas (prefectures). The National Commission's rulings were final. The lists were belatedly published in mid-February, which tends to prove that the final list occasioned some internal debate.

No member of the government appears among the candidates, the majority of whom are unknown. The most famous among them is Rabah Bitat, one of the nine historic chiefs of the FLN and the last to perform official activities, since as president of the National Assembly he is the second most important person in the government, after the president of the Republic. The average age of the candidates is 40. Half of them are university graduates and 94 percent are men.

The National People's Assembly (APN) has, in only two legislatures, acquired a maturity and a legitimacy because of the magnitude of the tasks it has accomplished. Its activity is not rigidly formal, and the deputies have a role to play. In 10 years they have proposed some 10,000 amendments, some of which challenged the final goal of government bills; this is why the elections of 26 February are more than just a formality. On the voters' decisions between the various trends in the single party may depend the success of President Chadli's policy.

Amended in 1986, the National Charter does not challenge the country's fundamental options, but it is the bearer of a certain economic liberalization. No doubt the final text does not go as far as the president of the Republic would have liked, but it does lead to a necessary change of personnel.

The episodic ministerial reshuffling (LE MONDE of 11, 14 and 20 February 1986), the moving of walis (prefects) and the appointment of new local party officials demonstrates the wish to have "the right man in the right place."

To the Algerian, barring the upheavals that have been applied in homeopathic doses in the past, these changes clearly indicate the emergence of a new caste, the technocrats. It is no longer necessary to be cloaked in historic legitimacy to participate in the conduct of affairs. Competence and training take precedence. Certain appointments are symbolic of that evolution. The new holder of the finance portfolio, Abdelaziz Khellef, for example, forged his reputation in the Commerce Ministry. In a crucial period when foreign currency revenues have dropped 35 percent, he embodies efficiency and realism, new parameters in the Algerian political landscape. The appointment of the new minister of heavy industry is also significant. Faycal Boudraa, 45 years old, by training an engineer, took part in 1968 in the founding of the National Iron and Steel Company (SNS). He was its director when he was called to the government, several of whose ministers are, like him, recognized specialists in the sectors over whose destinies they now preside.

Last spring's prefectural movements, which went almost unnoticed because of the lack of well-known names, is also revealing. While agriculture seems to be picking up at a brisk pace, while it is the priority of the government and while the recorded results are promising, several of the newly appointed walis are agricultural engineers.

A Tight Game

The political debate which for nearly 2 years pitted those in favor of openness against those clinging to socialist orthodoxy, though it has not been closed has gone into its second level following the meeting of the last Central Committee. A certain consensus seems to have been entered into since there is talk, within the party as much as in governmental spheres, of "the necessity of mobilizing all the energies" to face the crisis. Will that determination go as far as a return to grace for Boumediene's former ministers, who were removed from power in the early 1980's? Names are circulating persistently, but confirmation is not yet possible. Only the return to Algiers last week of Abdelaziz Bouteflika after 6 years of exile may lend credence to this theory.

President Chadli denounced those who were not playing the game, going so far as to challenge certain walis. He denounced the evils inherent in the systems which are paralyzing recovery and development efforts. The bureaucracy is being pilloried, it must disappear and leave business firms to prosper in complete autonomy. The sacrosanct foreign trade monopoly is itself being put to the question.

After being the promoter of the private sector, President Chadli is making himself the exponent of business autonomy. Of course, the discrepancy between speech and reality is wide. Private industry is confronted with a thousand problems that are still preventing it from developing, and publicly-owned business is still under supervision. But the public will has been clear since the debate over enriching the National Charter began in the summer of 1985. President Chadli has not deviated from the line he set for himself. The game he is playing is a tight one. He has had to surmount many obstacles and make numerous concessions, primarily to put an end to a "war of the clans" which, schematically, placed him in opposition to the party apparatus.

The Problem of Daily Life

He seems to have had the benefit in this undertaking of an influential ally: the army which, in Algeria, always has the last word. Beyond its internal dissensions, it shares his convictions as to the country's economic future.

Confident of its support, the head of state, whose reforms have been impeded or postponed by the crisis or the lack of means, is accelerating the activity. Time is pressing. His second term ends in January 1989. In less than 2 years he must reach a point of no return on the road to liberalization he has chosen. So that he can prove he made the right choice if he runs; so he can be sure that his successor will continue to work in the direction of his profound convictions if he is not a candidate.

However, President Chadli's policy is being harmed by economic contingencies, which are imposing crushing austerity on the Algerian people and, consequently, damage his popularity. He is made responsible for all of the ills and is regularly the target of anti-authority slogans from the Algerians, who at the moment have no other tribunals in which to express themselves except stadiums.

Every football match is an occasion for them to give free rein to a rancor that has been accumulating for many months. The problems of daily life are becoming less and less tolerable with time. Last November they were the cause of the violent incidents that made the very austere Constantine come close to a riot. What happened there can happen here tomorrow.

Shortages are constant. It is still as difficult to find coffee, even though it is 50-percent chickpeas. Edible oil is sporadically lacking, as is butter. Many other products are "under tension", to use the term honored by the Algerian press. It is impossible to find tomato puree, the basis of many traditional dishes, for example.

It is true that Ramadan begins this year on 29 April. Following their usual custom, Algerians long ago began to stockpile so as not to be without during the sacred month in which all evenings are convivial ones. But only that which is on the market can be stockpiled. The authorities will undoubtedly make an effort to supply it, in that crucial period when discontent is exacerbated by the long days of fasting, as they do periodically throughout the year to avoid a crisis that would also be a definitive challenge to President Chadli's pragmatic policy of openness.

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CSO: 4519/85

BRIEFS

BOUTEFLIKA RETURNS FROM EXILE--The father of Algerian diplomacy, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, came back to resettle in Algiers last week, after 6 years of exile in Europe. Minister of foreign affairs from 1963 to 1979 in the successive governments of Ben Bella and Boumediene, he is the origin of Algeria's international acceptance and credibility. He entered into disgrace on the accession of Col Chadli Bendjedid to the highest office. A mere adviser to the presidency until January 1980, he was excluded from the FLN's political bureau in July 1981 and left the country a few months later, officially to go to Switzerland for his health. Sentenced in 1983 by the revenue court to a fine of 2 million dinars (about 3 million francs) for poor management of budgetary credits, he only broke his scrupulously-observed silence to defend himself against these charges of misappropriation of funds. Mr Bouteflika regularly left his Swiss retreat, where he had no known political activity, for France. He made an official appearance in public on 7 November 1985 at a cocktail party given in honor of the national holiday by Algeria's ambassador to Paris. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Feb 87 p 6] 8946

CSO: 4519/85

VARIOUS PROVOCATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FRICTION IN SOUTH REVIEWED

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Mar 87 pp 3, 8

[Article by Majdi Sirhan, Muhammad Muhawid and Mahmud Ghallab: "The Evil Persons Manipulating Egypt's Security in the Shadows: Who Is Working To In-flame Strife among Egyptians?"]

[Text] The situation in Upper Egypt has suddenly exploded and factional strife has raised its head once again. The Governorate of Bani Suwayf has witnessed acts of arson and assaults on a number of shops and stores and the setting of fire to their contents which anarchical groups of young people ranging from 14 to 18 in age have carried out. In Sawha', fires were set in the al-Qutb mosque and the church of the virgin!

AL-WAFD went to learn about what is going on there and try to get at the evil hidden hands which are manipulating Egypt's security in these circumstances.

Before we present the details of what AL-WAFD witnessed and the investigations and interviews it held, we must stress that we most emphatically reject the approach of sabotage, arson and the spreading of panic among devout persons and that the people of Egypt must be aware of all attempts and schemes any entity is working on to inflame strife among Egyptians.

In Bani Suwayf, the beginnings of the manipulation of national unity by clandestine elements were present almost a whole month ago, specifically in the town of Sidmant al-Jabal in the center of Ahnasiya. A clash occurred between some people and a monastery as a result of a conflict over land adjacent to the monastery. The monastery had surrounded the land with a fence 150 meters long and from 3 to 4 meters high. Some people broke through the fence and destroyed it in a few hours. This incident had repercussions which came to the attention of various areas in the Governorate of Bani Suwayf, with its various groups, and some pamphlets were distributed bearing the Christian cross and demanding a Christian state. Along with the repercussions of this incident, another story circulated in secret. Some Moslems, especially among girls and students in secondary schools, rumored that some veiled girls had discovered the appearance of forms representing the cross on the covers of their heads and theories were initiated to explain the appearance of these

crosses which had become prominent among young people. Some people said that Christians had sprayed a chemical on the veiled women's clothes and this material assumed the form of a small cross no larger than an ant; as soon as the clothing was moistened, the size of the cross would increase and come to about 3 centimeters. Some people reiterated another interpretation, which held that the cloth of the head covering had been imported from Israel and that it was scientifically treated to form crosses with the purpose of stirring up dissension between Moslems and Christians.

What is serious is that these rumors have escalated, proliferated and entered into every home, and no one has acted on the official level to calm the situation down. Not a single person has presented a specific fact to confirm the rumors. At the beginning of the last week of February, that is, the week before last, three specific acts occurred which resulted in inflaming events and setting off the situation. On Saturday 21 February, a female official in the Faculty of Letters accosted the dean of the faculty, presented her head covering to him and said that she had bought it in the city of Port Said and that crosses had appeared in various spots on this covering after it had been washed and dried. The same week, a female student in a faculty went to her colleagues in the faculty and told them that she had been conducting business in a store and that a woman suddenly drew her attention to the appearance of the forms of the cross on her head covering. The third occurrence took place in the town of Bush. Some female secondary students said that a group of Christian girls had been walking alongside a group of Moslem girls and after that the forms of the cross appeared on the Moslem girls' clothing. Some people discovered that the Christian girls were carrying small bottles containing an oily material and that they were using this material to draw crosses on the Moslem women's clothing. The Christian girls rejected this charge and stressed that this material was the "oil of blessing" which had a special religious significance among them and that it had no connection with the gossip that was being circulated.

The Outbreak of the Situation

These three stories were the nucleus of the incidents of violence which broke out in some faculties of Bani Suwayf which are subordinate to Cairo University, the technical commercial institute, the school of mechanical industries, the school of agriculture and the girls' secondary technical school. The students went out on violent demonstrations into a main street in the center of the city and a number of other streets which branched off from it and some young people joined forces with them. They assaulted a number of shops owned by Christian citizens, including pharmacies, book stores, grocery stores, jewelry shops and a tourist office. The security forces had gone ahead of the demonstrators and ordered the owners of the shops to close them, leave them and go home. However, that did not prevent the demonstrators' destruction of the iron doors of the shops, the destruction of their contents and the setting of fire to some of them. The security forces challenged the demonstrators and a violent struggle broke out between them, during which the demonstrators used stones and pieces of wood and the security forces used tear gas grenades and electric prods. The technical commercial institute students smashed the institute director's car and almost destroyed the institute itself. The director sought the aid of the

police, 61 students were arrested and it was decided to close down the institute and suspend studies there.

The incidents of violence extended to the town of Biba which is about 30 kilometers from the city of Bani Suwayf. Some young people in the town demonstrated and smashed up a car belonging to a Christian pharmacist. The demonstrators rallied together in front of three churches in the city, caused minor damage to some glass windows in two churches, broke into the third church, smashed some of its contents and tore up some books present inside it. The demonstrations continued for 3 successive days, broken up by security confrontations led by the first assistant minister of the interior, who came to the city of Bani Suwayf accompanied by a large group of senior military investigation and security officers. Central security vehicles and police patrols were deployed in various streets of the city of Bani Suwayf and the town of Biba, schools, places of worship and large squares.

Islamic Groups Are Absolved

By Friday morning, the incidents had quieted down, after Hashim Qara'ah, the governor of Bani Suwayf, held a meeting with religious figures, and agreement was reached that the Friday prayer in the mosques would be devoted to calming down the situation and containing the crisis. The imams of the mosques did in fact do their part and the governor addressed the Moslems in the large mosque in the city following the Friday prayer and urged the citizens to be intelligent and join ranks to transcend the crisis.

The owners of the shops that had been assaulted started the process of repairing and redoing their shops, except for some who had suffered grievous losses and damage.

AL-WAFD met with the owners of the shops, and they all stressed that the Islamic groups had not taken part in the breakin and the smashing up of the shops. They said that they had observed groups of young people ranging from 14 to 18 in age breaking into the shops. The shop owners unanimously agreed that hidden hands had reached out to create a clash between Moslems and Christians for the sake of sabotage. Some of them stressed that the security movement had been slow, which resulted in the expansion of the scope of the incidents. They said that since the time the assault on their shops occurred, they had tried to present notices to the security entities and had not received a response. The authorities had not investigated the sites of the incidents by the time this interview was recorded.

There Is No Categorical Proof

AL-WAFD met with a number of officials in the Governorate of Bani Suwayf and some members of religious groups, and they were unanimous in agreeing that external elements had intervened to attempt to create dissension.

The first meeting was with Hashim Qara'ah, the governor of Bani Suwayf, who talked about the development of the incidents, and said:

"After the female Faculty of Letters official had presented her personal head covering to the dean of the faculty, and I myself had examined the

'signs' that had been printed on it in the presence of the dean and a group of security personnel, I noticed that the signs were no more than 8 millimeters in size and that they were located in places where wrinkles did not appear. I tried to remove the cross with some fluid, but it would not come off. I used a lens which happened to be in my possession and it was apparent to me that the lines had not been printed or drawn by pencil but had been drawn in very fine lines. The cross assumed the form of the sign of an X, that is, was not rectangular. One of the persons present washed the headpiece with water and ordinary soap. The surprise was that the signs disappeared and were not apparent even after the headpiece was dried off, although the official said that the signs had appeared on the headpiece after it was washed. That is categoric proof that the sign had been drawn, not printed, on the fabric. There is no categoric proof yet about the rumors that are being circulated and ideas have still not been spelled out."

AL-WAFD: What is the number of people arrested or people on whom the prosecutor's office is conducting an investigation?

[Answer] The military investigator's office arrested five persons by order of the minister of the interior, in execution of the emergency law. The prosecutor's office has conducted an investigation into 25 students from the industrial school, 51 students from the commercial technical institute and nine students from Biba. There is not a single university student among the people imprisoned by the order of the prosecutor's office. The position of the university students has been disciplined, although marked by some impulsiveness. This impulsiveness has been accompanied by demands such as the return of Islamic clothing to the university and segregation of male and female students, alongside the release of the arrested persons. The students have threatened to strike if their demands are not answered. Dr Ihab Ibrahim, deputy director of Cairo University, came to Bani Suwayf, talked with the students on the morning of Saturday 28 February and convinced them that if they modified their demands regarding the Islamic dress and segregation of male and female students, the university would intervene with the security bodies to review the arrest of the students.

The Violence of the Security Treatment

AL-WAFD: Some people are talking about the violence of the security treatment of the incidents. Others are talking about the security bodies' slowness to act, which led to an increase in the magnitude of losses. What is your evaluation of the security confrontations which have taken place?

The governor of Bani Suwayf replied,

"I will tell you what happened to me personally on Wednesday when I went by one of the streets on which the incidents had occurred. I was surprised to see hundreds of young people surrounding my car. They all ranged from 14 to 18 in age. For a moment I was under the illusion that they were intending to assault me, and here they were gathered around me to greet me and cried 'God is great!' The security forces were standing several meters away from my car and did not move, because these children were looking like 'clowns.' Had the police been as violent as some people claimed, they would not have tolerated

this situation. Rather, there was some permissiveness on the part of the security bodies, in the sense of watching and waiting until the situation became clear. Perhaps some violence occurred in the quelling of the destruction. The justification for that is that the situation could have got out of hand and developed into total destruction, and then there would have been some justification for violence. I cannot accuse the security bodies of shortcoming or excess, but we must be logical in understanding things. The delay in the investigation of some shops does not alter the incidents; one should take into consideration that the number of members of the prosecutor's office is limited."

AL-WAFD: Will the persons who suffered damage be compensated?

The governor: I cannot promise compensation now. Only the Council of Ministers will evaluate this situation. The decision is in its hands.

Economic Suffering Is the Reason

AL-WAFD met with Hasan Jawdah, chairman of the society of the appeal in Bani Suwayf and former member of the People's Assembly. He said,

"I consider that the case of the crosses has been pinned on Christians but they did not do it. Rather, it is a method by which people express the vexation inside themselves, over the numerous problems they are suffering from without anyone paying attention to them. Perhaps there might be hired or subordinate bodies which are trying to stir up agitation in the country."

AL-WAFD: Have you seen examples of these crosses which are being printed on the veiled women's clothing?

Hasan Jawdah: Some people I trust have. This is a fact that exists, but Christians are not involved in it. Rather, it is an attempt to stir up factional strife at this time and an attempt to pin it on the Islamic current. The Christians are not responsible for the phenomenon of the crosses, and the Islamic current has no part of the burning or smashing up of shops. A mob committed these acts which is burning in the name of Islam, and they have no connection with Islam. As to the government handling of the matter, it was bad and provocative. Rather than swiftly appearing at the sites of the incidents, they procrastinated, and when the security forces appeared, they hit people who were remote from responsibility and haphazardly arrested people who were not the real criminals. The security forces set off tear gas grenades in the air and they came down on houses. I believe that this was intentional, in order to sow loathing in the spirits of the devout citizens toward the Islamic current by creating the illusion that it was responsible for the incidents.

AL-WAFD met with the priest Philemon al-Baramusi, deputy head of the Coptic Orthodox diocese in Bani Suwayf. He said,

"My personal opinion regarding this case is that the young people today are suffering from difficult circumstances, including the breakup of families, fragmentation of the family entity and the absence of family guidance and

direction. Young people harbor many hopes and live in an actual situation which is different from their hopes. They are divided within themselves. They want to express their opinions as they think and as they imagine the sound way of asserting their identity and expressing their freedom to be. If they do not meet with decisive guidance and a convincing, satisfactory model, they are then easily led by any idea and rapidly excited by any rumor. They believe what is said and do not investigate things. Through their impulsiveness and rebellious nature, they come to resemble an untamed force which destroys and does not build, smashes and does not do good. In my opinion, if young people are devout, that is something to be applauded, but it is not acceptable that young people should turn into a destructive force. Religion is a constructive element for the individual, society and conduct, uplifting the value of man and soundly expressing man's progress. We are all worried about our country because we are living in an area inflamed by events and surrounded by wars on all sides. The enemies' best method is to crush the people through the people themselves."

AL-WAFD: Do you expect reactions toward Christian citizens that are different from what has happened?

[Answer] The church knows all its people. Love is accessible to all and peacemaking is for everyone. We call people to this, ask this of them, and direct them to live with this notion. However, if there are individual cases that act in a manner which they cannot control, we have no power over them, and I totally deplore the rumors which say that the Christians want a Christian state.

The Authorities' Handling Was Provocative

AL-WAFD met with Maj Gen Muhammad Labib, chairman of the Wafd committee in the Governorate of Bani Suwayf, and he discussed his opinion regarding the responsible security bodies' handling of the incidents. He said,

"The authorities' handling of the events was provocative. It was a kind of flexing of muscles. I believe that the authorities know the sound method for making a confrontation, and do not apply it. The confrontation which took place caused tension and led to fertile ground for the spread of rumors. The sad thing is that correcting rumors in this society is a difficult thing."

The Sawhaj Events

The city of Sawhaj witnessed a series of events last Friday which had the goal of inflaming strife between Moslems and Christians. Unknown persons set fire to the al-Qutb mosque and the church of the virgin. At 1430 hours after the prayer last Friday, the residents of al-Qutb Street were surprised to see fire breaking out of the al-Qutb mosque in a terrifying manner and the people hurriedly attempted to put out the fire. Tongues of flame reached the minaret. The roof collapsed and the pulpit was burned. Fire also burned the rugs and chandeliers, and the basic losses were estimated at about 120,000 pounds. In addition to that there was the value of the mosque as a historic monument.

At the same time, some children infiltrated into the church of the virgin adjacent to the mosque and tried to set fire to the altar of the church and the two rooms of the bishop of the diocese of Sawhaj.

The people tried to contact the fire department, but the vehicles arrived after the flames had consumed most parts of the mosque and part of the church.

The security agencies claimed that the cause of the fire had been a short circuit in the shed adjacent to the mosque, although we confirmed that it was in proper order before the criminal laboratory had set out its report about the cause of the fire.

The central security forces threw tear gas bombs to scatter the masses who had assembled to put out the fire and the state security investigator's office arrested 95 inhabitants of Sawhaj. The head of the prosecutor's office, al-Bandar Ikram Nassar, ordered the isolated detention of a number of the people charged and the investigation is still underway to identify the persons committing the crime.

The al-Qutb mosque and church of the virgin lie in the center of the city of Sawhaj in the al-Fiyatayah section, a commercial area. The mosque was built on an area of 250 square meters, and the church was built on an approximately equal area. They are adjacent to one another and were built about 183 years ago.

AL-WAFD tried to meet one of the Christian brethren in order to talk with them, but they refused to talk with us. The Reverend Bafum, the bishop of the diocese of Sawhaj and al-Maraghah, also refused to talk with us, and permitted us to photograph the burned areas in the church.

AL-WAFD's correspondent talked with some owners of shops adjacent to the mosque and the church. Husayn 'Arif, the owner of an upholstery equipment shop, said, "After finishing the Friday prayer, we heard the lesson the imam of the mosque gave, and about 45 minutes after our departure we were surprised to find the servant of the mosque coming out of it, shouting at the top of his voice that the mosque was burning. We tried to contact the fire department. In spite of the slight distance between the mosque and the fire station, it arrived after the fire had devoured all the contents of the mosque!"

'Abd-al-'Azim Mahmud, a carpenter, said, "After Shaykh Sayyid had given his talk following the Friday prayer, we went to our shops and at 1430 I heard a loud cry in the street. When I looked into the situation, I found the mosque in flames and fire coming out of it. The central security vehicles came, tried to disperse the people by force and threw tear gas grenades at us. Unfortunately, some boys had worked their way in and tried to set fire to the church of the virgin. Praise God, great damage did not occur to it."

It was necessary to meet the imam of the al-Qutb mosque, Shaykh Sayyid Rashwan, and the servant of the mosque, 'Abd-al-Hamid Sha'ban, to attempt to investigate the causes of the fire in the mosque. The imam of the mosque

said, "I have been working in the mosque since 1976 and during this period I have not seen any misconduct on anyone's part. Last Friday I went to my home after giving a lesson to the people at prayer after the prayer, and at about 1445 I was surprised by someone knocking on the door of my home and informing me that fire had consumed the mosque. I rushed immediately to the mosque and found heroic attempts on the inhabitants' part to put out the fire. I asked about the fire department and they said, 'We contacted it and it came late, after the fire had consumed the mosque and destroyed it.'" The imam of the mosque added "There were claims from the security agencies that the electricity shed had been behind this disaster, but how so? No harm occurred to the shed, and the current in the section was not cut off when the fire occurred, or after it. It is a major plot to create factional strife with our Christian brothers."

A Broad Campaign of Arrests

When AL-WAFD's correspondent went to the Sawhaj security department, we found Husni Rashwan, the chief of the criminal investigation department, preparing a comprehensive report on the incidents and the names of the persons arrested. AL-WAFD's camera managed to photograph the first page of the report.

The chief of the criminal investigation department declared that the cause of the fire had been a short circuit, although there was no report from the criminal investigation, and he declared the names of some people charged in the incidents.

In a meeting, the director of Sawhaj security, Maj Gen Samir Sa'id, said that he was surprised to have received a notice from a resident of al-Qutb Street concerning the outbreak of fire at al-Qutb mosque at 1430 hours, after the Friday prayer. [He added] "We moved over to the site of the incident and found that fire had totally destroyed the mosque, except for the new annex. We tried hard to put out the fire, managed to do so and informed the criminal laboratory in Cairo to send a team of experts to learn the cause of the fire." The security director said, "When some boys observed the burning of the mosque they rushed to the neighboring church of the virgin and tried to set a fire in the wooden altar in the church and the two rooms of the bishop of Sawhaj. We immediately corrected the situation and arrested them, and they have been handed over to the prosecutor's office for investigation."

The security director said that the number of persons arrested is not as great as some people keep saying and that the office of the prosecutor is still investigating them.

A number of pressing questions remain and they must be answered by the security agencies. In whose interests has the inflammation of factional strife in Egypt been taking place now? If the criminal investigation report on the electricity shed does not rule out this great misfortune, then who is behind the inflammation of the strife? Does this remind us of unfortunate events which the security agencies arranged in the past?

EGYPT

CAUSES OF RELIGIOUS UNREST EXAMINED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9-12 Mar 87, AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Mar 87

[Article by Ahmad Baha'-al-Din: "The Daily Journal: Sectarian Strife Revisited"]

[9 Mar 87 p 12]

[Text] There is sectarian strife in Egypt.

And sectarian strife is more dangerous than the case of contaminated milk because if you ignore it and do nothing about it, it will affect you, your children, your property and your lives.

I was away from Egypt for 1 week. During that week events in Asyut, Sawhaj, al-Minya and Bani Suwayf were the topic of conversation all over the world. These are Egyptian cities which are becoming familiar to readers of foreign newspapers and the audience of foreign broadcasts. The names of these cities are becoming as familiar as the names of cities and villages in Lebanon which used to lie quietly, nestled in the mountains of Lebanon. Now, however, the names of these cities are presenting a hateful picture of Egypt, a picture that is frightening people, worrying friends, shaking confidence in the country and raising questions about Egypt's near future.

I pulled together everything that was published in Egyptian newspapers during that week about those incidents and I noticed the following:

National newspapers and the official media ignored these events completely. They did what they used to do in past days when such incidents were described as mysterious actions or underplayed as "regrettable incidents." But then as these incidents grew, we were forced to recognize them after the flames they ignited rose high into the sky.

Even in opposition newspapers, which wrote about these incidents at length, published photographs, and sent correspondents on location, usage of terms and phrases like "infiltrators," "the work of foreign agents," and "children between the ages of 14 and 17" prevailed in all accounts. In other words, everyone was innocent and no one was responsible. And we were all angels too because we did not wish to be bold and criticize ourselves. Nor do we wish to define the responsibilities--and there are many--which we will mention in a while. We do

not understand this business about "children between the ages of 14 and 17;" this is an extremely serious matter. Children do not come out of a vacuum. They do what they do as a result of their climate, their "environment," and what they hear from older people. This matter that was played down went so far as burning mosques and churches that had stood side by side for 200 years, as was mentioned in an account of one case.

There was no one on the scene but the police force. I did not read about any official, political or religious leader who traveled from the capital to confront the root causes of the problems, not their consequences.

Before that, of course, this serious matter had not been unknown to me. I had been following with interest accounts by colleagues, foreign journalists and relatives who spoke about rumors regarding the sign of the cross which appeared on fabric when the fabric was soaked in water. They spoke about rumors of a cross that appears on one's palm after one shakes hands with certain people. I shuddered to think that such superstitions were becoming so widespread as I considered their frightening psychological, mental and material "real consequences."

But the situation has gotten worse, and we must talk about it.

[10 Mar 87 p 12]

[Text] The potential for prejudice exists within every person, and that makes the growth of racism, sexism or religious prejudice possible. When a child is born, he is innocent and without prejudice, but society creates within him that fertile ground in which the seeds of prejudice can grow.

The "mechanism" by means of which prejudice grows, however, has been invariable throughout the ages in all societies.

The mainsprings of prejudice have always been an economic crisis, the difficulties of earning a living and the tensions of life. Prejudice has been the reaction of ignorant people to such difficulties. When they lose hope in their ability to solve problems, they look for a scapegoat. When making a living is easy and life is full of hope and optimism, no one looks for a scapegoat. However, when prospects become narrow and dim, understanding disappears and tolerance and broadmindedness recede. For example, when the number of people in one family grows, and their home becomes too crowded for them with no one being able to have his own room, his own bed or his comfortable chair, members of that family become nervous and tense. And if members of the same family, even brothers and sisters, fight with each other under such conditions, what can we expect when on top of all that earning a living becomes difficult?

People who have a sense of frustration in the face of a foreign enemy, for example, or who are unable to face foreign challenges turn to domestic conflicts that previously did not exist. Some people may think that if a foreign problem is difficult, a domestic one may be easier. If one lacks the ability to face one's real enemies, to vent one's frustration, one automatically tends to create enemies who are not real enemies. Consider automobile drivers who have no reason to become unfriendly as they drive on a spacious and suitable road. When they

come to a congested and crowded spot where they are delayed, they become nervous and tense, and they turn against each other. Each driver then fights with the one closest to him, and each one considers the driver of the other automobile responsible for what happened, even though that driver was not responsible at all for the congestion and delay.

Then there are a few media platforms which promote prejudice or believe in it profoundly. They add fuel to the fire of prejudice either deliberately or out of ignorance.

Our circumstances comprise much of all that: we have an economic crisis; the struggle to earn a living is a bitter one; and millions are living in miserable conditions. We feel unable to free ourselves from foreign restrictions and forces that are stronger than we are. Because of our large numbers, because of poor education and unemployment, our young people are frustrated and they feel that they have no future. They feel that there is nothing to inspire them with hope.

It is from these and other circumstances that the seeds of prejudice have grown. Then someone came along and added fuel to this smoldering fire of prejudice which then turned into a raging fire. How are we to face these circumstances?

[11 Mar 87 p 12]

[Text] And now we come specifically to the recent events and how they got started. AL-WAFD Newspaper reported that a woman who works at the College of Liberal Arts in the University of Bani Suwayf showed the dean of the college a piece of fabric she used as a head cover. She said that when she washed that fabric, which she had purchased from a store in Port Said, signs of the cross appeared on it. Mr 'Adil Husayn, editor-in-chief of AL-SHA'B spread the rumor that a chemical substance was sprayed on Muslim women's clothes to make signs of the cross appear on the clothes. Then Mr Muhammad 'Amir, editor-in-chief of AL-AHRAR Newspaper, related what people have been talking about: he said that a textile plant in al-Mahallah al-Kubra was manufacturing this fabric.

The three newspapers did their duty in condemning the sources of the strife. For that they deserve our thanks.

It is obvious from these stories which are circulating among lay people that superstition has a hold on them. When they are in a certain emotional state, people will believe superstitions and they will even see them.

I will assume, however, the existence of this fabric on which a bigger cross appears every time it is washed. A government which can hear the faintest rumblings must have heard these stories. But did anyone try to trace these stories and find out where they came from?

The first, self-evident duty here is that of tracing these stories rigorously and putting an end to doubts and suspicions by issuing prompt and public assurances about them.

Did the dean of the College of Liberal Arts investigate the matter? Did he verify the existence of such a fabric? Did he request an investigation of that employee and an inquiry into her fabric? Did he ask the police, the detectives or the district attorney's office to go to Port Said where the store from which the employee said she had purchased the fabric is located--assuming that it exists? Was the merchant who imported that fabric asked where that fabric came from? Did the police and the district attorney hear testimony from those whose clothes had been smeared with a chemical substance?

Did an expeditionary force go to al-Mahallah al-Kubra looking for that factory?

I have read nothing to show that a matter so grave has been traced all the way to its source. Nothing was done by the dean, by the governor, by security officials or by political leaders. Nothing was done for a whole month!

The stories were just allowed to stand, unconfirmed and undenied. Were they imaginary, or were they true?

We are asking for a piece of that fabric which people are talking about. We want to see it on television. We want to trace it to its source: we want to follow its trail from the buyer to the seller and the importer. If we cannot find the fabric, we want to question those who talked about it. Let us not leave this mystery hanging any further and let us not let confusion grow any more without clarifying this matter once and for all or meting out a deterrent punishment for it.

[12 Mar 87 p 12]

[Text] Since the authorities knew nothing for many weeks about crosses which appeared on fabric and became bigger when the fabric was washed, nothing was done to investigate these stories, refute the rumor or find one piece of fabric, trace it to its source and make a public announcement about the matter. And that was evidence that the authorities did not know about these rumors. This being the case, we have to assume that there are many other grave matters which the government does not know about.

We will assume that the government does not know all the facts about the situation in Upper Egypt.

Some merchants are sending their merchandise to Cairo because they are afraid of fires. Others are hiding their automobiles outside the cities where incidents of sectarian strife occurred. In rural areas at these locations plants cultivated by some people are being pulled out.

If the proprietor of a store located on an important street wanted to sell his store, competition for it would be keen. People would ask if a Copt or Muslim were going to buy it, as though the shop were a strategic position!

These are painful and bitter facts, and it has been the practice not to publish such facts and not to make them public. But I believe in an open society. I believe that setting forth a problem, no matter how damaging it might be, and

discussing it openly is the only way to find a solution for it. Ignoring a problem causes it to grow and fester.

The police are doing their duty.

People know who the offenders are, but they dare not report what they know because the law allows the district attorney's office to release those who have been arrested on 30 pounds bail.

The police are doing their duty.

But this is a problem that the police alone cannot solve. So far this has been the state's only response to this grave issue. The police take action when security is disrupted, when there are demonstrations and sit-ins, and when mosques, churches and stores are burned. Once the demonstrations and sit-ins are disbursed, the government's involvement in the question comes to an end.

And even if we were to consider what is merely the criminal aspect of this situation, we would not find the government following through on this matter all the way to the end. The story about crosses which appear on fabric after the fabric is washed and the story about chemical substances that are sprayed have the same outcome: we have read nothing and heard nothing about measures that are being taken by crime fighting agencies to tell the public what the indisputable facts are, instead of leaving matters hanging in the air in this manner. These agencies are satisfied with talking about phantoms which we call infiltrators and foreign agents.

I am still asking for this fabric to be shown on television. I still want to know the truth about it.

The remedy for this strife, however, requires more than the police, more than central security and more than the district attorney's office.

[13 Mar 87 p 24]

[Text] At the beginning of this series I talked about the economic, social and cultural conditions which create prejudice. The police do not resolve these conditions; research, clarity of mind, and exposing the advocates of prejudice do. And political, intellectual and social tendencies have to assume their responsibilities so that these conditions can be resolved.

The art of government is the art of anticipating problems or confronting them before they grow. It does not involve stalling and not putting out a fire until it has consumed everything.

We would have liked to see top political leaders arriving in Sawhaj, for example, on the following day. We would have liked to have the people see this on television, hear about it on the radio, and read about it in newspapers. We wanted residents of those areas to feel that all those who represent the state reject such matters and will provide each citizen with protection and dignity. We wanted the people to know that those who represent the state will punish and condemn every guilty person.

It was expected years ago that universities, schools, curricula, programs and the media would stand up to intellectual terrorism regardless of its source. This intellectual terrorism has given rise to people with sick minds, and they are unable to use any method other than this destructive one to express their political, social or economic frustrations.

Why don't we send missions of sociologists to conduct a continuing field survey of the origins of these problems and the factors that occasionally cause them to flare up? A man like Dr Ahmad Khalifah, a former minister and scholar and former director of the National Center for Social Research, ought to be asked to organize a field expeditionary force to travel in those areas and present well-considered scientific reports to the top political tendencies. We must not look at this matter exclusively from the perspective of security reports.

If American universities were to conduct such a social survey, as they did in the past, we would say they were spying. And yet, what have we done in that regard?

What role has the unemployment of university graduates played in the outbreaks that have taken place in the country? What is the role of the economic crisis in those outbreaks? Ultimately, what is required is one essential matter: publicity. We want to discuss the problem publicly without embarrassment or concealment.

When we ask that each group, regardless of its opinion, have the right to express itself politically and publicly, we do so not to set up a forum for entertainment and amusement, but rather because we believe that shedding light on any problem and giving an opportunity to everyone who has an opinion to express that opinion peacefully is the modern remedy in modern societies whose circumstances have changed and are still changing very quickly.

8592

CSO: 4504/161

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY INTERVIEWED

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19 Jan 87 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Mubarak al-Fadil, minister of industry, by Yusuf al-Sharif: "Sudan's Minister of Industry Tells ROSE AL-YUSUF, 'The Question of Extraditing Numayri is no Longer an Issue of Contention With Egypt'"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Was it a mere coincidence that the following people were in Cairo at the same time; Mubarak al-Fadil, the Sudanese minister of industry; Ethiopian Foreign Minister Burhan Babih; and Dr Mansur Khalid, the former Sudanese foreign minister heading a delegation representing the Front for the Liberation of the People of Sudan, which is waging an armed rebellion in the South under the leadership of Colonel John Gurang?

Undoubtedly, the question is of political, diplomatic and media importance which is obvious to everybody. It still awaits a definite answer which will put an end to the varying predictions and analyses about this surprising event and the extent to which it is related to settling up relations between Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan in general, and to developments in the critical problem in southern Sudan in particular?!

In a meeting with Mubarek 'Abdallah, who represents the most prominent young leaders in the Ummah party, I told him: Frankly, there is a trend in Egyptian political circles which has become convinced that there is an equal amount of optimism and pessimism concerning the future of Egyptian-Sudanese relations, its flourishing, and its strategic stability in the near future. While, on the one hand, the Ummah party raises the issue of extraditing Numayri, considering that it is a popular demand and a crucial factor in the improvement of relations between the two countries. On the other hand, Interior Minister Ahmad Husayni, one of the most prominent politicians in the Unionist Party, declared that Egypt had offered the leaders of the regime in the Sudan an end to Numayri's asylum several times during the transitional period. This offer was accepted [as published] with a plea that Egypt keep him within its territory. This is one example of the contradictions in the views of the present coalition government about handling issues concerning relations with Egypt.

He said: Without going into detail, I think that the issue of handing over the deposed president to Sudan is no longer an issue of contention or outbidding since al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has come to power. Referring this issue to the Egyptian judiciary offered a political escape from one of the most important popular demands of the uprising of April 6, 1985 in the Sudan. The popular support--if one can say so--for this demand increased due to the revelations at the trials of the symbols of corruption in the previous regime. This was in addition to the trial of the decade--as the world press described it. Involving the issues of smuggling the Falashas to Israel through Sudan's land and air space; the deposed president's involvement in crimes against the nation and the Arab cause; his involvement in sabotaging and causing the collapse of political and economic conditions; and finally, proof of his direct intervention in judicial proceedings during the trial of the martyr Mahmud Muhammad Taha, who was declared innocent of apostasy by the high court. Hence the government in Khartoum appealed to the Egyptian judiciary to settle the whole issue in order to clear the way for Sudanese-Egyptian relations.

I also asked the leader of the Ummah party about the declarations of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi about his differences with Egypt on the Camp David agreement and what impact this disagreement will have on attempts to improve relations between the two countries.

He answered: The position of the Ummah party on this disagreement is not new, and we announced it at the time, when we were the opposition to the previous regime in Sudan. This disagreement has not escalated to the point of adversely affecting official or unofficial relations between the two countries, for several reasons:

First, those Arab countries who boycotted Egypt at the Baghdad conference understand the special Egyptian-Sudanese relationship. In spite of the support given to the Camp David agreement by the deposed president, Sudan is still a member of the Arab League and of Arab summit meetings.

Second, Sudan is now more capable than before to play a role in Arab reconciliation, transcending Camp David and achieving a new form of Arab unity to face the dangers and challenges which surround the Arab nation from all sides.

Third, we realize that Camp David is finally dead, for Israel has proved through its political tricks, its invasion of Lebanon, mistreatment of Palestinians and construction of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, that it is avoiding peace and is still following an expansionist policy at the expense of Arab existence.

I said: Undoubtedly the top official decision that gave birth to the integration charter between Egypt and Sudan has continued to represent the most important part of the criticism that led to its being frozen. Therefore, perhaps the inclusion of the popular dimension is now required in the framework of the present democratic choice of forms of government in the two countries. The question is, where to begin this step and how?

He said: In Sudan, we have set out to form a special political committee from the two coalition parties whose job is: to review the work in the pre-integration framework; to eliminate its shortcomings and negative points; and to set up a new plan for better relations which will achieve the common interests of the two peoples in various fields; to guarantee strategic stability and the opportunity to develop better relations in the future. This is why my mission during this visit to Egypt will go beyond the scope of mere mutual cooperation in the industrial field and the exchange of technical expertise and will include a dialogue with the political leadership, the ruling party, the opposition parties and the Egyptian intelligentsia about the future of relations and integration.

I said: What do you see as the next step in the committee's work in light of your official and informal meetings and discussions during your visit to Cairo?

He said: I think the government in Egypt is convinced that the contacts and discussions between the two governments and the ruling parties in the two countries should be limited to the plan presented by the Sudanese coalition committee as a first step. Later, a new integration plan will be raised for discussion between the parties, unions and mass organizations in Egypt and the Sudan so that integration will acquire its popular and democratic dimensions and so that it will be based on a new understanding and relations in accordance with the great political changes in the two countries.

I said: I know that the coalition committee, involved in drawing up a blueprint for alternative Sudanese-Egyptian relations, has been working on integration plans and programs. The committee's work is related to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Egypt. Has the date of this visit been decided?

He said: Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had been eager to visit Egypt, even before becoming Prime Minister of the present government. However, special circumstances led to the postponement of such a visit. The announcement of the election results for the founding assembly, then its convocation and the beginning of democratic rule in the Sudan are among these circumstances. We hope that the date of this visit will be determined after a meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Mr. al-Sadiq during the Islamic summit in Kuwait. We also hope that the committee will expedite its task of preparing for the visit in a practical manner to present the results to the political leadership in Egypt, thus fulfilling the desire of both countries to renew the legality of official and unofficial relations, in a manner that achieves a progressive growth of mutual interests.

I said: As far as the problem of the South is concerned, have there been contacts or meetings during your visit to Cairo with the delegation from the Front for the Liberation of the People of Sudan, or with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister regarding this problem?

He said: We have rejected any contact of dialogue with the Front since it announced its responsibility for downing the civilian plane over Milkal, which

caused 60 innocent civilian casualties. The Sudanese government has announced through its Prime Minister its rejection of the Front's participation in the constitutional conference--which is to be held to solve the problem of the South and the problems of various other regions, and the future of the regime in the Sudan--on the basis that by its practices, the Front is a terrorist organization. There is no doubt of the government's seriousness in looking for a just solution for the problem, and its active diplomatic efforts in Africa and internationally to expose Gurang's collaboration and terrorism, has been deprived the Front of material, diplomatic and media support. Moreover, the military campaign undertaken by the Sudanese armed forces in the South and led by Lieutenant General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, the Supreme Commander, has had a great effect in the number of successive defeats inflicted on the Front, in lowering its morale and in dividing its leadership. The campaign also caused huge numbers of the Front's cadres to join the people's armed forces.

I said: In a statement the Ethiopian Foreign Minister made in Cairo, he denied his country's interference in the problem. He said that the problem is completely Sudanese, and that if these were sincere intentions, the problem could be solved by having the concerned parties sit down together. What is your appraisal of the Ethiopian position?

He said: Since the success of the people's uprising, the Sudan has been announcing its firm desire to establish better relations with its neighbors, and its readiness to solve all inherited problems with those neighbors. Relations with Ethiopia have been given priority in our official and unofficial efforts in that field. In the meeting of Mr. al-Sadiq with President Mengistu, it was agreed to form a ministerial committee to settle standing problems between the two countries. Ethiopia, however, did not respond. Moreover, its military aircraft have attacked Sudanese territory and violated its sovereignty. We are able, of course, after Ethiopia rejected a mutual exchange of interests, to mutually exchange injuries. The whole world knows that the leadership of the rebellion movement, its broadcasts, camps and its military operations come from Ethiopia. So how can Addis Ababa claim that it does not interfere in the problem, and when will it take actual steps to prove its good intentions toward the Sudanese people, and their stability, security and safety?

The discussion with the Sudanese Minister of Industry ended here. However, the question about the coincidence of the timing of his visit and that of the Ethiopian Foreign Minister and of the delegations of the Front for the Liberation of the People of Sudan remains a cause of varying predictions and analysis.

In light of some fact-finding concerning this question, I was able to confirm Mubarak 'Abdallah postponed his visit three days, which led to his visit coinciding with that of the Ethiopian foreign minister. Also, officials in Cairo were surprised at the visit of the delegation of the Front of the Liberation of the People of Sudan without prior arrangement.

Cairo, however, had refused to receive a delegation representing the Front, some 2 months ago. That delegation went back on the same plane on which it had come from London. Likewise, they were not received by any official during their surprise visit last week. They returned to London, having failed in their mission to make contacts of to achieve the dialogue which they had sought in order to give their terrorist movement legitimacy. The only advice they were given as they left was to reach an understanding with the central government in Khartoum, accept democratic dialogue and to announce a clear decision for a cease fire first as the only way to solve the South's problem peacefully.

13340/12948

CSO: 4504/112

GOVERNOR OF NORTHERN REGION INTERVIEWED

Khartoum AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 25 Feb 87 p 5

[Interview with Major General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Amin, governor of the Northern Region, by Sadiq al-Shamm and Khadijah al-Bahi: "Northern Region Governor: 'Census of All Areas of the Region Must Be Taken'"; place and date not given]

[Text] The Northern Region seems to want to say, "No clouds rain on me or on my land that do not pervade the entire country." The region complains to you of the emigration of its sons, leaving behind them an old man leaning on a stick with which he herds his sheep. And it has other things to say, important secrets lying behind this exodus. The joints of the Nile have been cut. Its severed limbs have been scattered, and this has happened because of projects on the White and Blue Nile and the Khashm al-Qirbah Reservoir. These have weakened the Nile and dried it up into a thin line, leaving behind a cloud of sand. The Hamdab Reservoir is a dream that entices everyone. It would restore the scattered limbs of the Nile. The Qadu factory. Good news for the Ministry of Industry and the Resources Committee: millions in hard currency have been found under the factory building. Kuraymah awaits the return of her children. Omdurman, al-Dabbah, Dunqula, al-Jayli, Shandi, 'Atbarah wait for their promised festival: the road. The entire region is nothing but promises. The results are nothing. The performance of the executive apparatus does not satisfy the aspirations of the masses. Voices have been raised for dissolving the apparatus. These subjects formed the focus of our conversation with Major General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Amin, governor of the Northern Region.

[Question] The performance of the executive apparatus is not satisfying the aspirations of the masses. Have voices been raised for its dissolution?

[Answer] From the beginning, we have sensed that confidence was lacking between citizens and the executive apparatus. It was necessary to work to restore this confidence so that we might assure the course of development generally. We have defined principles for restoring confidence between the executive apparatus and the citizen. These can be summarized as follows:

1. Disciplining the executive apparatus by adhering to deadlines and issuing reports on the progress of work, together with other regulations to assure its sound performance.

2. Rationalizing the resources of the region--cars, offices, stopping luxury spending.

3. Settling citizens' problems expeditiously, so that the citizen is not forced to have recourse to the governor in all matters that concern him.

We have authorized ministry agents to perform ministry functions, so that work at these ministries will not be delayed under the pretext that the minister is not present. The agents have in fact carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner. We are now in the process of legislating the popular administration that will assist in carrying out the work in the region. We will experiment with popular committees in the region. During my tour of the region, I issued a number of decisions which must be implemented. These include:

1. Maintaining the fitness and repair of government vehicles; not buying new vehicles; using them in the area of work.

2. Not assigning teachers outside the area of the educational field in all its stages.

3. Reviewing the role of imams and preachers; examining their qualifications; not using places of worship for political or personal purposes.

[Question] The food supply is a concern that occupies the mind of citizens. There is a severe shortage of sugar. How will you correct this shortage?

[Answer] On the basis of my tour, the region is suffering from a shortage of foodstuffs, especially sugar. Some areas are suffering greater difficulty because of the presence of large numbers of emigrants who share the food supply with the local inhabitants: e.g., the area of Marawi and al-Dabbah. I have contacted the minister of commerce, who generously promised to allocate additional amounts to contribute to solving the difficulty. We have also taken practical steps to regulate distribution channels by forming a committee to review distribution channels. It has become clear that there must be a census of all areas, so that distribution can be based on clear and just principles. We are in the process of coordinating with the Census Bureau and the relevant agencies.

[Question] The region is suffering from an obvious shortage of drinking water. What are the government's efforts to solve this shortage?

[Answer] We have prepared a program to dig a number of wells in all areas of the Northern Region. The Northern Region is suffering from a drinking water shortage. This is a problem that requires providing a large number of well-digging machines to carry out this project at the required speed. In addition to the digging of wells, these need to be supported physically by the

establishment of water networks. The policy that was being followed was that the regional government would dig the wells and build storage tanks, while the citizens would be responsible for building distribution networks. From my field tour of the various areas in the region, it has become clear that the cost of these networks has increased many times and that it has become impossible for them to be built by the citizens. There are contacts and earnest efforts underway with officials of the Energy Ministry to support this project. The city of Halfa suffers greatly from the water problem due to the continued abatement of the waters of the lake. This necessitates great effort to transport water to the city. Furthermore, the engines that pump water from the lake to the storage tanks are in bad condition and not worth repairing. We believe new engines must be obtained that will contribute effectively to solving the drinking water shortage in the city. As for the construction of a harbor, studies are now under way to choose a site.

[Question] There are factories in the region that have been halted, and other that have not seen the light of day. Are efforts being made to make these factories operational once again?

[Answer] We have made field visits to the factories that have been built and those under construction and have seen the stages of deterioration they have reached. The factories are subject to the central [authorities]; however, by virtue of their presence in the region, they must be supported in order to increase production. They are a market for agricultural products that cannot be exported, and they put people to work. There are efforts to support the factories in the region. Channels must be created for full coordination between the central and regional government so that we can make these factories operational. The Qadu spinning and weaving factory has been affected by the drought and desertification. The Kuraymah factory requires support and rationalization. A Soviet delegation will visit this factory soon. The Masbiu cement factory is a pioneer project in the region and is actively contributing to advancing progress in the region, under the leadership of Brigadier General Babikr al-Tijani. Work is now under way for a doubling of production. The production capacity of the Wadi Halfa fish processing plant is almost idled now. The factory must be made operational, because it will solve a great shortage. We have contacted the minister of animal wealth to remove all obstacles to it. There are efforts offered by the Industry Ministry for these factories.

[Question] In the Northern Region, men frequently die: the quality of the environment is collapsing, health services are declining, and there is a severe shortage of medicines. What about your efforts and the efforts of the state of Saxony to support the hospitals? What about Solidarity Hospital?

[Answer] Health services in all areas of the region need great effort and an improvement of health facilities. During my tour of the region, I found that most hospitals, health centers, and first-aid stations need physical support and specialized personnel. They are suffering from a severe shortage of medicines. Specialists do not accept work in the region, which compounds the problem. Some help has come from the minister of health. He has offered considerable support in improving the health service in the region. We praise the support given by the state of Saxony in this area, the medical equipment

it has given to Solidarity Hospital and Kabushiyah Hospital, and its support for the people's pharmacies that have been built at 'Atbara and al-Damir to relieve suffering. We are in the process of opening new pharmacies in the other high-density areas of the region. The Health Ministry is undertaking a comprehensive campaign to spray the region to eradicate mosquitos and sand flies.

[Question] The educational institutions are dilapidated, and their walls have been replaced with straw and palm fronds. There is a severe shortage of teachers at all levels. What are your efforts to rebuild the schools?

[Answer] We know that most of the schools of the region were built with self-help and that the fathers' councils contributed greatly to developing educational facilities. However, their condition today requires immediate maintenance. For our part, we have offered material aid for maintaining and repairing these schools. Committees have been formed to mobilize popular support for the maintenance and repair operation. There is an educational survey, so that the maintenance operation will be fully thought out in relation to needs and requirements in order to direct the popular support that is offered. There are many applications for building new schools with self-help. We praise such interest. However, before these projects are approved, there must be a full study of the area in which people wish to build and of the number of students that will be absorbed. For our part, we are committed to providing the equipment and teachers. As for the process of balancing primary, intermediate, and secondary education, we are striving for this balance and to create wider opportunities for the largest number of students. The matter, however, has been submitted to the Education Ministry.

[Question] To what extent can one take advantage of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to restore agricultural projects in the Northern Region and put them in working order?

[Answer] There are efforts by the Northern Agricultural Organization and by the Agriculture Ministry to restore the agricultural projects in the region and put them in working order and to take full advantage of the loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for restoring the projects. IFAD has approved the implementation steps for the phase relating to the complete overhaul of the projects of the Northern Agricultural Organization in the Northern Province and the establishment of the al-'Afad agricultural project. The sum of \$27 million has been earmarked for this purpose: \$12.5 million of it a grant from the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, \$9.5 million as a loan on easy terms from IFAD, in addition to \$5.5 million as a local component from the government of the Sudan. Also, the Nuri, al-Gharir, al-Kalad, Qanti, al-Hatani, al-Ghabah, and Abu Ruqayq projects will be made operational. These projects have been completely studied from the standpoint of feasibility and are ready for implementation. There is also a loan from the Agency for Overseas Development to enable projects at Fandatu, Kala, al-Sayyal, Kabushiyah, al-Kiteiyab, al-'Aliyab, al-Zaydab, and al-Fadlab. The immediate plan for the Kala, Kabushiyah, and al-Sayyal projects has begun to be implemented, and the immediate plan for the remaining projects is expected to be begun soon. They

are waiting for equipment and machinery that has been purchased and is on its way to the Sudan.

[Question] The al-Hamdab Reservoir is a dream that entices everyone. When will this dream become reality?

[Answer] The al-Hamdab Reservoir is one of the pioneer projects we are eager to implement because of the electrical power it will provide that can be used in agricultural projects and because it will provide an ample reserve of water, which has been unavailable since the building of the Blue and White Nile projects and Khashm al-Qirbah Reservoir. There are a number of studies that have been made. A Soviet delegation was expected to arrive to study the area and help fund this project. The delegation's visit to the area is expected very soon.

[Question] Give me paved roads, and I will give you development, progress, and civilization. What is your comment on this dream?

[Answer] We are earnestly striving to tie the region together. It lacks the simplest of the elements of development: paved roads. We have placed priority on two roads that will help tie together these scattered areas. One is the al-Jayli-Shandi-'Atbarah road. During the Fifth Islamic Conference, agreement on funding the road was reached between Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani and Mr Muhammad Tahir Jaylani, the minister of public works. The Kuwait Monetary Fund and the Arab Monetary Fund have agreed to fund the project. The cost of building the road will amount to \$114 million. Preliminary studies will begin in May 1987. God willing, implementation will begin in January 1988. Feasibility studies will also be done for the Shandi-al-Matammah bridge project, which we hope will be implemented within the preceding project. The second road, which we set within the priorities of the current period, is the Omdurman-al-Dabbah-Dunqula road. Many efforts have been put into it. We praise the exhausting efforts being made by the people's committee to realize this project. For our part, we have made intensive contacts to provide the necessary funding for the road. We have earmarked 700,000 Sudanese pounds to make immediate improvements and to build rest stations along the length of the road. As for maintaining the dirt roads, we used the resources available to us to maintain the Firkah-Halfa road and the Dunqula-Halfa road.

[Question] During your recent visit to the 'Atbarah River, the problem of drought and desertification stood out as the most important of the problems. What solutions have been proposed for this problem?

[Answer] During my visit to the 'Atbarah River area, many problems stood out. The most important of them are the problem of drought and desertification, and the accumulations left behind since 1964 by the Khashm al-Qirbah Reservoir, so that the area faces the problem of lack of water for some cooperative agricultural projects in the area. There are a number of studies of alternatives that have been prepared by the Arab Development Organization and the Institute of Environmental Studies at Khartoum University. As regards the area's health and education problems, we have begun to provide immediate solutions for them. We have contacted the minister of agriculture to support the cooperative associations in the area. There is a food project, with a

cost of \$2.5 million, which is being implemented by the (Inter-Rite) Relief Organization. This project will contribute to the development and advancement of the area.

[Question] The information plan has a constructive role in the process of promoting development. What is the plan that has been set forth in this regard? What about regional radio stations?

[Answer] One must not lose sight of the fact that true development must draw its existence from the firmness of the foundation--namely, the citizen--on which it rests and that [true development] is the establishment of a productive society that provides just opportunities and realistic possibilities for its members. We believe in the importance of the information plan and its role in promoting development, building and reshaping the citizen--"concern for the mental development of the person." It has therefore been necessary to foster and develop the media of communication and to concentrate on propagating values and ethical behavior. The government's basic goal is the development of the region and alleviation of the suffering of steadfast and patient citizens. It was necessary to set forth an information plan to raise the level of our regional radio stations in Dunqula and 'Atbarah and to facilitate their broadcasts reaching the citizen in the desired way. We have laid down some basic foundations to be a guideline for these communications media. These include: full participation of all the political parties through party and union policies. There must be full, comprehensive, and honest cooperation between the executive machinery and the political forces. Personal and party disputes must be banished. We must firmly establish the principle of self-censorship, popular censorship, and then official censorship. All people of the region, whether inside or outside the country, must contribute to development and growth. And we should work to direct the use of the region's resources and exploit them in the best way for the benefit of the region.

[Question] Compulsory military service is a step toward a national character for the armed forces. What steps have you followed to make this a reality?

[Answer] The proposal for compulsory military service is a pioneering national proposal which will preserve the unity of the country. In addition, it is an action that will create a spirit of offering and sacrifice among young people. It will teach them discipline and clothe them with a refined feeling of patriotism. There are a number of centers for compulsory military service in the region: at al-Damir, 'Atbarah, and Shandi. Efforts are being made to list the young people born in 1964 and to enroll them, so that they will be able to bear arms to protect and defend the country.

[Question] What about raising the capacity of river transportation and building the road between the Sudan and Egypt? To what extent is a reexamination of border trade possible?

[Answer] It has been agreed that the firm relation between the two peoples must be exploited for the benefit of the citizens of both countries. Within this framework, we believe it is necessary to contribute and make haste to build the land road linking the Sudan and Egypt, raise the capacity of river

transportation, and reexamine and direct border trade. The governor of Aswan has expressed his readiness to contribute to building rest stations to receive Wadi Halfa passengers. I made a visit to Cairo, during which I met several Egyptian ministers. We discussed ways of supporting and developing the relation between the two countries. We also discussed construction of five river boats for the Northern Region, to be built by the Arab Contractors Company. They are close to completion and will arrive in the region within the next few months.

[Question] What contributions are expatriates from the region making to development?

[Answer] We praise citizens' efforts in implementing self-help projects and helping us by solving simple problems among themselves. We hope they will respond to our directives and cooperate completely to realize the goals. We praise the cooperation of the members of parliament and their contribution to solving the problems. There are basic foundations that we have proposed regarding developing the region by self-help. We hope all sons of the region, whether living in it, outside of it, or overseas, will contribute to the growth and development of the region. This proposal has been well received. Sons of the region should contribute physically and mentally to the advancement of the region and its people.

12937

CSO: 4504/166

IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH ANALYZED

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 1 Mar 87 p 4

[Article: "Target: 1.1 Percent Growth: Future Evolution of the Tunisian Population"]

[Text] The quest for a viable balance between this country's wealth and its potential on the one hand, and the needs and hopes of its people on the other, has always been one of the basic goals of development plans in independent Tunisia.

Population problems have in fact been central to our fundamental goals, as embodied in our economic and social policies. In view of the economic and social situation that has prevailed in the course of the 6th plan, and of the currently visible outlook for the future, greater emphasis has recently been placed--especially on the eve of implementation of the 7th Plan--on these particular problems.

On the other hand, the second issue that continues to concern the government is how to go about slowing population growth and how to narrow disparities between its regions.

With an eye to clarifying all these issues and to seeking the most viable routes toward achieving and maintaining such balances, preparatory work has been done by the National Sector Commission on Population, designed to assist in elaboration of a population policy and in identifying the evolutionary outlook for population over the life-span of the 7th Plan.

Population Trends

Bearing in mind the statistics already gathered on natural population shifts and the net effect of migratory movement along our frontiers, it was found that the population has grown from 6,648 million souls in early 1982 to 7,575 million or 927,000 people during the life-span of the 6th Plan, as opposed to the predicted 365,000.

The net increase in population growth from 1982 to 1986 averaged 2.6 percent per year.

Albeit very close to the 6th Plan's predictions, the rate has not led the downward trend anticipated by the Plan, whose aim was to slow the massive increase in population growth, especially the trend that started with the 7th Plan.

Clearly, population growth is still running high, thanks to three main factors involved:

- The number of births has continued to rise, despite a marked decline in average fertility levels,
- Infant mortality rates have steadily and significantly declined,
- The era of the 6th Plan was marked by a massive repatriation of emigrants.

Trends in Population Age-Structure

A study of data gathered during the 1984 census made a number of findings possible:

The high proportion of young people in overall age-distribution throughout the population. These youngsters, now aged under 15, represent 39.1 percent of the total population, while citizens over 60 account for only 6.7 percent at most.

A slight change in population structure with regard to age, in the process of which the under-5 population has declined from 18.6 percent in 1986 to 14.5 percent in 1984.

The recorded decline in fertility over the past 20 years has affected the age structure of the population and contributed to a slight aging in this population, now that the portion of the population aged 15 to 55 years has risen from 48 percent to 54 percent between 1966 and 1984.

On the other hand, analyses of family size in Tunisia yielded the following results, according to family types:

Family Type	Number	Average Family Size
Couples with children	1,004,400	5.7
Childless couples	150,020	2.0
Married women with children (husband absent)	42,440	4.4
Widowed or divorced father with children	13,980	3.4
Persons living alone	253,160	1.0

Among intact families (couples with children living with their parents, but not yet married):

32 percent have 1 or 2 children;

48 percent have 3 to 5 children; and

20 percent have 6 or more children.

Bearing all these data in mind, along with the current population growth, the total population would, if additional efforts are not undertaken with a view to slowing the growth rate, the population will swell from 8,503 million in 1991 to 10,871 million in 2001 and to more than 16,450 million by 2021.

According to this same rate, the total population of the country will increase during the 7th Plan from 1,019,800 people to attain the level of nearly 8.6 million, or an annual average increase of 204,000.

The annual average rate of increase will have a tendency to lower very slowly, going from 2.58 percent between 1987 and 1991 to 2.42 percent during the last 5 years of this century. It will reach 1.93 by the year 2021.

Fertility data indicate that the average birth-rate at 260,200 per year. It will reach 311,000 during the twilight years of this century and 387,400 between 2016 and 2021. That works out to a birth-rate of 32.6 percent, 30.3 percent, and 24.7 percent, respectively, for each of these periods.

The mortality rate will, on the contrary, settle at 7.07 percent during the period of implementation of the 7th Plan, up from 6.1 percent over the past 50 years to 5.6 percent in the year 2021. The trend in population structure according to age in Tunisia will then be marked by a decline in population pressure from young people under 15 years of age, and in correlation with an increase in numbers and in relative terms, in the working-age population.

Result: The under-15 age-group which is currently 39.1 percent of the total population would be 38.3 percent in 1991, 37.1 percent at the end of this century, and 32 percent in the year 2021.

The proportion of the population aged 60 and above will be 8.6 percent by the year 2021 and 7.4 percent by the year 2001; it is now 6.7 percent.

The proportion of population aged 18 to 59 years, which reflects the basis for reckoning the size of additional active population, would rise by 564 thousand during the 7th Plan, an average of 113 thousand.

With these projections in mind, the work done thus far recommends that we move more energetically, mainly through the family planning policy, to move closer to an annual average growth rate of 1.1 percent in the year 2021, rather than 1.93 percent.

To achieve these goals, these findings call for enhanced family-planning action, to wit:

--Optimum utilization of available infrastructures at the National Family and Population Offices and at the Public Health Ministry to improve coverage rates, especially in our rural areas.

--Bringing both these agencies into the move toward integrated medicine based on a global approach.

--Organizing study-days, seminars, and meetings calling for fuller participation in family planning activities.

--Enhancing our structures for dialogue and concert our efforts to implement the population policy by energizing our Supreme Council on the family and population.

--Raise citizen consciousness of demographic issues through education and information with a broader scope.

--Revising existing legislation with a view to encouraging newlywed couples to limit their offspring to three children.

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CSO: 4519/83

NEW LAW ON ANONYMITY OF SUSPECTS SEEN AS THREAT

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Feb 87 p 18

[Article by Moshe Ronen: "Muzzling the Press"]

[Text] This is what will happen if the Knesset passes the new law banning the publication of names of suspects: the freedom of the press will be restricted and fewer cases of corruption will reach the public. Here is a case in point:

Two days after the new law banning publication has been passed on second and third reading: a two-way consultation in a minister's office. "What I am about to say now will sound absurd to you," will say the senior attorney, an old friend of the minister's. "I think that I have found the best solution to your problem. But please hear me out."

The minister will promise his friend the attorney to listen to him patiently, and the attorney will speak freely: "Our problem is the journalist A.B., this nuisance, this blood sucker! The man gives journalism a bad name! One cannot talk to him. When he starts picking on someone, he does not let go! He is as stubborn as a mule! He will dig and dig until he has uncovered everything. And you know what the outcome of such revelations can be..."

The rumors about the new investigation that A.B., the bothersome journalist, is engaged in have reached the minister's office, at first in drops, then in a flood, during the weeks that preceded his meeting with the attorney. The journalist had been sniffing around suspicions that the minister had helped two of his friends--a contractor and an attorney--to make a good deal of money at the expense of the public. The first was awarded lucrative building contracts, while the other received legal jobs writing contracts by the government and dissolving companies which put millions into his pockets.

In exchange, the two contributed generously to the minister's party. As a result of their contributions, the man had it made: the party was happy, the minister was happy, and only the public till went empty. A.B. wanted to tell the public about it.

"The solution is simple," the attorney will explain to the minister. "You must see to it that someone file a complaint against us with the police." The minister's face twitches involuntarily, but the attorney hastens to

reassure him: "Do not worry. The police will not bite. The new law is already in force..."

The attorney was relying on the law according to which the press may not publish information about a suspect whom the police is investigating, as long as he has not served 30 days in prison and as long as an indictment has not been filed against him. If a journalist like A.B. airs identifying information he himself becomes a violator of the law and can expect 1 year of prison.

"Now there is an important restriction on what A.B. can do," will explain the attorney. "It is a new restriction, and, according to the new law: if there is a police investigation, he can publish almost nothing!"

The minister still does not look satisfied: "But this is like falling from the pot into the frying pan. Are we looking for trouble? Do I need the police running around here asking questions? Do I need pictures of myself on television coming out of the police station saying 'No comment?' I should invite them in of my own accord?"

The attorney smiles patronizingly: "This is precisely what you did not understand! Now they will not be able to photograph you coming out of the police station. It will be prohibited. It will not be allowed to publish the fact that there is an investigation. And under such conditions, there will be no investigation!"

The attorney reminds the minister about several investigations against public figures: "None of Asher Yadlin's friends dared to help him because they were afraid that the fact will show up in the papers. Even the SHABAK [General Security Service] affair would have died in some secret commission if it had not been for the press. It is to be assumed that Avrom would have continued to honorably serve in his job until retirement, if it had not been for those nuisances. Even the suspicion that Knesset Member Shlomo 'Amar evaded service in Lebanon and bribed his way out while other reservists were being wounded and killed there, would not have come out if it had not been for pests like B.

"Now the press has been castrated by the new law. Now they will not be afraid to close files. Now, even if investigations are glossed over, the press will be able to write only that an 'unidentified figure' is applying pressure to close the investigation against another 'unidentified figure,' and we all know that no night editor at any newspaper will publish such a thing because it is vague and uninteresting.

"Consequently," the attorney will sum up looking like the one who discovered America, "a police investigation is no longer dangerous. We can handle that. The risk involved in an official investigation is a calculated risk worth taking, as compared to the risk involved in a press investigation over which one has no control and the results of which no one can foresee!"

Here one must emphasize that the story is entirely a figment of the imagination. The above minister and attorney are mere characters in a parable. Whoever finds any resemblance here to real persons and real events does so solely of his own volition. Only the law described here is genuine. The law

has not yet been passed in second and third readings in the Knesset. So far it has only been approved in a first reading, with a majority of 13 against 12 Knesset members. In the meantime the press is entitled to write about investigations and to reveal cases of corruption. It is also entitled to publish court reports on arrests of suspects.

Churchill is credited with saying that democracy is a very bad system, but the trouble is that no better system of ruling has yet been found. All the other systems are worse.

This is what one can say about the legal system concerning the publication of names of suspects and of people under investigation. It is not an ideal situation. True, it does happen that the family of an innocent detainee is hurt. It also happens that the press publishes pictures of a suspect being led to the detention room, while later it emerges that the police had seized him by mistake.

But one must remember that the press does not publish the names of all suspects. As a very general estimate I venture to say that we publish only 2-3 percent of all police arrests. Some 97 percent of the detainees remain anonymous. We only involve a very small percentage of them, in cases where we think their arrest is of interest to the public.

As we said, the present system has many flaws. But there is no better. Every solution suggested implies dangers several times worse than the shortcomings of the present situation. Unfortunately, it is easy to see what is bad today, but difficult to foresee the dangers in store for tomorrow.

12782
CSO:4423/18

PARDON FOR JEWISH UNDERGROUND MEMBERS CONSIDERED

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Feb 87 p 7

[Article by Danny Kipper: "President Reconsidering Pardon for Jewish Underground Detainees"]

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has recently resumed studying the applications for pardon of prisoners belonging to the Jewish underground, after 6 months of not working on them because of pressures brought to bear by, among other things, the protests staged around his residence in Jerusalem.

At a discussion with students of an ulpan [Hebrew school for new immigrants] at Kibbutz Mishmar Hanegev, President Herzog said that 6 months ago various figures tried to pressure him into alleviating the sentences.

"I did not give in and I will not in the future give in to any kind of pressure; I will deal with the substance of those appeals just as I do in regard to any other prisoners in the country," the president said.

Asked for his view on the assumption that all the underground prisoners, except for those sentenced to life imprisonment, will be free by 1989, President Herzog said: "The Jewish underground prisoners will indeed be released by that time, except for the three sentenced to life, but that was the decision of the judicial system, which is completely independent, and whose decision must be respected."

As for commuting the sentences, President Herzog said: "Although the criteria applying to all the 8,500 prison inmates in Israel are equal, with regard to the underground prisoners there were educational considerations, too.

"Eight of them changed their views after their sentence was commuted, and some of them are actively working against the objectives and principles that governed the group in the past.

"The purpose was also to ensure that those who expressed regret for their deeds and publicly recanted would have an impact on other young people with leanings in that direction."

12782

CSO: 4423/18

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, STAFF PORTRAYED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (WEEKEND supplement) in Hebrew 20 Feb 87 pp 18-20

[Article by Ya'ir Lapid: "A Conspiracy of Silence"]

[Text] They always arrive early in the morning. David Suto slept, his guitar next to him. Young people filled every corner of the house around him. Suto knew them even in his sleep. They were his friends, his commune, his partners in the interview. They were also the first audience to each new song of the "Chilean nightingale." Suto sings about freedom, equality, and love among people. No one who ever heard him ever forgot him. In a different set of circumstances, in another place, with another regime, he could have been a great star. He and his guitar have walked all the poor districts of Santiago, Chile. If he knew that members of Pinochet's secret police were hiding among the audience, his round face did not show it, not did the voice bursting forth from under the very Spanish looking moustache betray it.

As always, the police arrived early in the morning. They picked them up quietly and efficiently: 12 young men, some of them almost children. They took them in a closed car to the basement of the secret police for interrogation. The accusation--membership in the socialist party. One of the young men died in the course of the "interrogation." One of the interrogators stood smiling in front of Suto. "You are a musician?" he asked. Suto nodded. "Then perhaps we should take the music away from you." They sat him on the floor and hit him in one place, again and again--over his ears.

That was in January 1985. A few months later, two Israeli young men showed up at the Amnesty office in Jerusalem. They had known Suto. While traveling in Chile they had come to the large house, and had stayed. They lived there for a few weeks, listened to Suto sing, recorded him on tape, and lived with him and through him. After that they continued their trip through South America. Once in a while they would receive a letter from Suto, in good English if perhaps a bit flowery, permeated by Latin emotion. When they heard about his arrest they decided to do something, and came to Amnesty.

The Jerusalem office of the organization is viewed as an energetic office, maybe even a very lucky one. Many of the prisoners of conscience that this office handled have been released. The office people wrote to the Amnesty International center in London and asked for Suto's file. "That is very

unusual," says Shosh Halper, a lecturer at the Open University and one of the founders of the office. "Normally, the London center choses the files they send us." This time, the London center was pleased. Their file on Suto was thin and garbled. It was an opportunity to add more information to it.

The Jerusalem office went into action. The action is not standardized and does not proceed according to preset patterns. The idea is to obtain the release of a man--by whatever means, condition, or gimmick. In countries like Chile this means that one must make it clear to the authorities that they cannot "hide" a man without eventually attracting someone's attention. On 20 February 1987, more than 2 years after his arrest, Suto was scheduled to be brought to trial. It is difficult to determine how much of the fact that Suto is still alive and will finally be given a trial, is due to Amnesty. In his letters he writes that he has no regrets: "Everything I did was for the people."

Amnesty-Israel is a complex branch of a complex organization. It has some 400 workers, most of them divided into groups. Each group is assigned two files of prisoners of conscience somewhere in the world, and proceeds to work on them until the prisoners are released. What steps they take, is their affair. One group, working on the file of Grigori Goldstein, whom the Soviets refused to allow to emigrate to Israel, mobilized 102 Goldsteins to sign the petition for his release. Day after day they challenge governments whose conscience is clear because it was never used. They struggle for just humanitarian and humane causes that few people ever heard of and fewer yet care about. It is very difficult, almost impossible, to persuade an Israeli public figure, who scurries about between "Who is a Jew" and the Finance Commission, to do something on behalf of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. It may be true that they are disappearing in frightening numbers, but on the other hand, what is a Tamil? "It is a human being, like you and me, who is being killed for no reason."

Varda Shiffer, chairman of Amnesty-Israel, is a small woman, whose soft voice acts as a filter for her self-confidence. Like the Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland, what one remembers most clearly is her smile. During the day she works at the office of the State Comptroller, in the evenings she works on her doctorate, and Amnesty is somewhere in the middle. "Somehow or other I came to devote my life to investigating." And she smiles. She became acquainted with the organization while going to school in Canada. The little that she agrees to tell paints the picture of a stormy, ideology-charged period filled with student principles and good works for the world. In 1977, after returning to Israel, she joined the Amnesty office immediately upon its foundation. When she began to work at the office of the State Comptroller she reported there her membership in Amnesty. She was told that there was no problem about it, as long as she was not being paid for her work. "Despite the fact that my work for Amnesty amounts to an almost full-time job."

After 10 years with Amnesty, Shiffer is familiar with the whole range of reactions that the organization elicits. She knows that before she can get down to the Tamil, or Chilean, or even Soviet business, she will have to answer a good number of questions. The automatic reaction to the word Amnesty is usually composed of two stages. First, she is told that the organization's

annual report was wrong, that they are nothing but a bunch of leftists who do not really understand what is happening here, and that the Arabs lie as a matter of habit and Amnesty eats up their lies.

Although she agrees with the report, Shiffer begins by explaining that she is not responsible for it, that the material for the report was gathered and written by the Amnesty center in London, and that the organization's people in Israel have no say in it. Moreover, when investigators from London come to Israel, members of Amnesty-Israel are forbidden to meet with them or to give them material.

At the second stage, she is told that the prisoners of conscience in Chile are indeed a very tragic matter, but at least they are not being blown up in Kikar Zion. In other words, we have our own problems. "I do not accept this argument," she says. "It is true that we do not work directly in Israel, but if people become more sensitive to what is going on in the world, more sensitive to what happens to people in general, they will be more sensitive to what happens here. We, more than anyone else, must remember what can happen when the world is indifferent or shuts its eyes. It has been only 40 years."

During her studies in Canada, Varda Shiffer worked for a small and crazy students' newspaper which fought the whole world. Something of that is still in her, but the style has changed. She employs popular means to advance unpopular aims. She will sharply oppose administrative arrests from Bolivia to Iran. She will furiously come out against the very idea of death sentence--even for terrorists--and will bring arguments to the point from Moscow to Washington. She will explain that membership in a terrorist organization that endorses violence does not automatically turn a person into a terrorist, and just as you think that you have "caught" her, she will bring up the names of Winnie Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, members of the ANC, the African National Congress. She is intelligent enough not to solve the equation and smart enough to lead to listener to it. "It amuses me to think that I have become a spokesman. When I began working for Amnesty I could not open my mouth. But I learned, in time, by dint of the job."

In the course of its 26 years of existence Amnesty International has become a huge organization, with more than half a million members, branches in some 50 countries, and active members in another 100 countries or so. Its publications awaken reactions, mostly angry, on both sides of the Iron Curtain. The Chinese, for example, received the precis of the material concerning them a few days prior to its publication, and reacted to the report in the Parisian LE MONDE 1 day before the publication. Even the Albanians sent their attorney general to Denmark to react to the report.

This intensity is not felt at the Amnesty-Israel office in Maccabee Street in Tel Aviv. The office is on the second floor, past a filthy hall that Amnesty shared until recently with a local dentist. On the door, a piece of cardboard bears the name Amnesty in blue felt pen. Inside there are two large rooms, boxes of written material and tapes. On the walls are posters portraying oppression throughout the world. The graphics work is clean and shocking.

Hanokh Katzir, secretary of Amnesty-Israel, is responsible for the Telex machine. He does not look like a secretary. He is tall, a bit rumped, wears round John Lennon glasses, and looks like a philosophy student. And not accidentally. He was indeed a student of philosophy. A few years ago he happened upon an Amnesty meeting at the university, and stayed on. As far as he is concerned, he always belonged to it. "I began being interested in it as a child. I remember reading a newspaper article about torture in Uruguay. It told about women prisoners who were put in a cell with hungry rats, which ate them alive. It shattered me. I went to my father and told him I wanted to fly to Uruguay to set up a resistance movement. He told me I had to go to school first." Which Hanokh did.

The first file he handled concerned a Czech prisoner of conscience. When he presented the file to the national convention, Nitza Lib'ai, the former chairman of the Israeli branch, cornered him and persuaded him to become involved in the administrative side, too. From Amnesty's viewpoint, Hanokh is a natural. By virtue of its nature, the organization appeals to a young, intellectual public, of the type that in Israel is usually associated with the left, and in the United States, with the right. In the boxes next to Hanokh there is a tape with freedom songs. Phil Collins, Prince, U-2, up-to-date music.

The majority of Amnesty members came to the organization by themselves, led by their conscience. In the wake of movies like "Missing" or "Tears of Silence" there is always an influx. Others came as a result of personal tragedy: "By now I know that David is no longer, that he is dead, but I have to have proof," says Mariana Silberman, a member of the Haifa branch. Her husband, David Silberman, a communist and a Jew, was the first to be arrested by Pinochet's secret police immediately after the fall of the Allende regime. He was accused of "opposing the government," an absurd accusation when one considers that the government was then only a few days in place. He was tried and sentenced to 13 years in prison. After a short time in prison he simply disappeared.

"That is when I joined Amnesty. For 3 years I tried to find him, without success. Then I took the children (three) and came to Israel. I am still searching, although I know the truth." When the Haifa branch opened, Mariana was among the first to join. "I know that Amnesty no longer works for my husband's case, because he has been missing for so long, but what happened to David taught me that if there are prisoners of conscience anywhere in the world--does not matter for what reason--they must be released. I am a human being, and I want to defend human beings." Mariana is not an angry person, just sad. One of the central principles of Amnesty is opposition to capital punishment. Mariana believes in this principle: "No. I would not lay a hand on Pinochet. I am against the death sentence. I would like him to be tried and punished for his crimes, but not by death."

Amnesty International has established, as a constitutional law, that wherever they are active, its members should oppose capital punishment and should organize political lobbying against it. That is somewhat unusual. Amnesty's charter is almost entirely based on international laws that were passed without any connection to the organization. Amnesty defined concepts such as

"torture," "prisoner of conscience," and "illegal detention" in accordance with those laws. The death punishment is not banned by any international law.

"In this respect Amnesty is a pioneer," says Aryana Melamed, of the seven-member central committee of the organization. "This is not a political matter. Amnesty simply believes that nowhere and in no circumstance is one man entitled to take the life of another man."

Aryana Melamed is a jurist by profession. She carefully side-steps the fact that in Israel the issue of capital punishment is very much a political matter, a right-left issue, and so forth: "Amnesty, like the international law, is opposed to torture. Capital punishment is torture." Aryana Melamed is the daughter of Holocaust survivors. On Monday this week she watched with them the opening of John Demjanuk's trial. If the prosecution succeeds in proving that Demjanuk was indeed "Ivan the Terrible," then there is a very good chance that the sentence will be death: "I will oppose it. I am certain that my parents also think like me. Although his case is special, the principle is still the same."

Even if the principle is the same, the emotional response is different. "I will not try to get people into the streets in Israel to demonstrate against the death sentence for Demjanuk," admits Varda Shiffer. "It is not realistic. I do not even know whether I really want to try. The Holocaust is something else. It is difficult to judge this subject by our normal standards." Aside from the Demjanuk case, there is no political dissent in the organization. "It is not true that we are all leftists," says Shosh Halper, "there are rightists in Amnesty, too. They tend to deal particularly with the issue of the Soviet Jews, but that is alright with me. Amnesty is not a political organization, but a humane organization."

Two years ago, Raful was a guest of the national convention of Amnesty. At the time he was explained the basic principles, including the matter of capital punishment. In theory, Raful belongs to the group of people who think that Amnesty does not understand the Israeli reality as it is. In practice, he stood before the convention and said that after he was explained the aims and activities of the organization, he was "prepared to sign the Amnesty charter with both hands."

By the way, the Demjanuk case is not the only difference between the Israeli branch and other branches of the organization. Even those whom the branch tries to help do not always like it. For example, after her release, a woman prisoner of conscience in East Germany, informed the Jerusalem office, in a short and not very polite letter, that she was not interested in staying in touch with them. She did not want to cross over to the West and chose to stay on the eastern side of the Berlin wall. Another prisoner of conscience, a Ukraine detained in a labor camp in Siberia, did not answer the letters sent to him. When Anatoliy Shcharansky visited the office, he was shown the file. Shcharansky said he was not certain that the Ukraine, who was known in the camps as an anti-Semite, liked the idea of "Jews," of all people, helping him. Not that this means anything. The letters may not have reached him at all. On the same occasion, Shcharansky said that the majority of the letters do not get by the censorship. "But that is not important," he said, "in the camps

they always know when a letter arrives, because the maltreatment stops all of a sudden." The Israeli branch, of course, does not deal with prisoners of conscience in Arab countries. A letter from Petah Tiqva will not be exactly helpful to a Syrian prisoner of conscience. What is left is more or less the rest of the world.

That is not an exaggeration. Some 128 countries figure in the latest Amnesty report. Even Switzerland is in there. Some of the data are sometimes doubted. "It is ridiculous," says Varda Shiffer, "in every country you get the same reaction--what you write about all the other countries is right and correct, we know about it, too, so why is it that only what you write about us is so distorted?" This is not necessarily ridiculous. Amnesty, which usually does not get the cooperation of the regimes it investigates, is always walking a thin line between facts and rumor. The material that it does succeed in proving sometimes has the effect of a punch in the stomach.

In the book "Torture in the 1980s," brought out by Amnesty, hundreds of cases are documented, photographed, and argued, such as the case of Belget Singh, who suffered broken limbs and total blindness in torture by the Indian security police. The policemen, Singh related, laid him on the floor, hit him in the eyes with bicycle pumps, then put rags soaked in sulphuric acid on his eyes.

Ali Hama Sali, aged 12, was tortured to death by the Iraqi security police. An examination of the body showed that he was also repeatedly raped. Edwin Lopez is still alive, but it is doubtful whether he will ever overcome the damage caused by electrical shocks--a whole series of them--administered to his testicles by the Philippine security police (under Marcos).

The world is full of obscene, savage, unfathomable violence. One must be totally mad to include Israel on this list. On the other hand, one must remember that Israel claims to belong to the other world, the world of justice and humanitarianism which believes in humanity and in observing the international law. Whoever thinks that there is no way this could happen to us, should, in the opinion of Amnesty, have a talk with a Chilean.

[box on page 19]

Amnesty and Israel: An Endless Dispute

This year's Amnesty report devoted four and 1/2 pages to Israel, three to Iran, and five to the Soviet Union.

"So what?" Varda Shiffer is a little angry: "People always talk about this matter of the number of pages. Instead, it might perhaps be better to read what is inside." Those who did read, were angry.

"You discriminate against Israel," said Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in reaction to the report. This claim intensified on the occasion of the visit to Israel by Ian Martin, the secretary of Amnesty International, who came to investigate the human rights situation in our country "and the conditions of the administrative prisoners in Israel." Israel consistently denies

considerable portions of the report, particularly those referring to the situation in the territories.

Between Israel and Amnesty there is a basic, still unsolved, disagreement concerning prisoners of conscience. According to Israel, membership in the PLO is as good as support for terrorism. According to Amnesty, only those who personally declared support for violence are not viewed as prisoners of conscience. Mere membership in the PLO, says the organization, is not a crime. Israel also claims that the report must take into consideration the fact that the population from which Amnesty gets its material is hostile to Israel and does not necessarily tell the truth. One way or another, the report is not exactly flattering:

In Israel today there are three prisoners of conscience and 26 possible prisoners of conscience; 15 restricted movement orders, and 16 cases of administrative detention, including members of human rights organizations. Amnesty claims that they were arrested because of their membership in those organizations. Amnesty also protested bad treatment during interrogation of prisoners in Gaza and the West Bank, and the fact that prisoners were subjected to systematic torture in a prison of the south Lebanese army (which is under the supervision--or at least under the influence--of the IDF). One detainee completely disappeared. Within the boundaries of the Green Line there is growing police violence.

The most interesting item is the title. In contrast to the other 117 countries criticized in the report, Israel's name does not appear on its own. What it says there is "Israel and the Occupied Territories."

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GROWTH OF ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN GAZA CHARTED

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 4 Mar 87 pp 18-20

[Interview with Dr Muhammad Siyam, Acting President of Islamic University in Gaza, by Abu Khalid: "AL-MUJTAMA' Talks with Dr Muhammad Siyam"]

[Text] The Islamic University in Gaza is a rising Islamic citadel and a genuine Islamic entity which has emerged in exceptional circumstances of the utmost sensitivity and danger. Nonetheless, it is forging ahead without attention to difficulties, through the concern of the unique men who established it, led the course and supported it materially and morally and the concern of the Islamic young men and women whom this citadel has embraced. Before all else, through the wishes of lofty, omnipotent God, let us follow through with AL-MUJTAMA's interview with the acting president of the Islamic University.

AL-MUJTAMA': Dr Siyam, could you give us an idea about your background?

Dr Siyam: In the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate, my name is Muhammad al-Shaykh Mahmud Siyam. I was born in the village of al-Jurah, southern Palestine, the district of al-Mijdal (Askelon), in 1937. My primary schooling was in the village of al-Jurah, my preparatory and secondary schooling in the Palestine secondary school in Gaza and my initial university education in the Faculty of Letters at Cairo University. I graduated in 1959, in the Arabic language department. I worked in the schools of the strip for a year, in the academic year 1959-60. Since the academic year 1960-61, praise be to God, I have been in the Ministry of Education in Kuwait, a teacher in intermediate and secondary schools then vice-principal and inspector in some schools, then Arabic language guidance official, then a fellowship student from Kuwait to receive a master's degree from King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jiddah and a doctorate from Umm al-Qura University in Mecca in 1982, and on loan from the government of Kuwait to work in the Islamic University in Gaza, where I am acting in place of the president of the university, the exiled Dr Muhammad Ahmad Saqr.

AL-MUJTAMA': We would like you to give the Moslem reader an idea about the Islamic University in Gaza, its curricula and its problems.

Dr Siyam: The Islamic University in Gaza arose in 1978 as an outgrowth of the Palestine Religious Institute, known as al-Azhar in Gaza, of which it is

an extension, and the development of secondary education in it to the university level. It is now founded on six faculties, the Faculty of Islamic and Secular Law, the Faculty of the Principles of Religion, the Faculty of Literature, History and Geography, and so on. A large number of the courses are in coordination with al-Azhar University in particular, in its capacity as the parent university, and an additional large number with the Jordanian universities, because they provide the university with a number of fellowship students or appointees to teach at the university.

The university has another distinctive curriculum which is to enrich the generation with Islamic curricula, since it requires a number of sections of the holy Koran in memorization, study and exegesis, and a number of hours in Islamic history, Islamic civilization, Arabic language and Islam and modern creeds of the students. That distinguishes the Islamic University in Gaza from other universities.

The university, God be praised, is an active member of the Federation of Arab Universities whose headquarters are Amman, and it is also an active member of the League of Islamic Universities whose headquarters are Tunisia. The university has a relations office in Amman which looks after the interests of its contacts abroad and it is trying to establish a relations office in Cairo as well. The university has close to 70 fellows in various universities of the world, in Arab countries, in Saudi Arabia, Cairo and Amman, in European countries, in London and Ireland, and in the United States of America, in a number of its states.

The university's budget is greater than 1.5 million Jordanian dinars. The council of higher education and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee provide the university with subsidies of no less than 30 percent of this budget, there is another 25 or 30 percent from the students' fees, and the founding board abroad provides the other sums required for the budget from Islamic philanthropic bodies such as the League of the Islamic World in Mecca, the Islamic World Philanthropic Board in Kuwait and other Islamic and Arab boards.

The university spends a specific percentage on stipends for fellowship students and receives academic aid or grants from a number of Arab countries in its two basic departments, the Arabic language and the English language, the Faculty of Education in the various departments, the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences or Commerce and the Faculty of Sciences with its five basic departments (mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology and biology). When the university began, it included hundreds of students and dozens of employees; now, however, thanks be to God, lord of the two worlds, the university contains about 5,000 male and female students (about 3,000 male and 2,000 female students).

The university is established in a number of temporary buildings (sheds or barracks). Whenever we needed to expand we received permission to build additional sheds or barracks of asbestos. The state of Kuwait, and the Tithe Institute specifically, is helping us establish buildings for study halls for female students. It has provided us with large sums in aid and praise be to God we have been able to establish many sections for female students' halls in them.

In the university today there are 190 faculty members and about the same number of administrative board members. In the university there are a number of bodies and councils, including the founding board, which is made up of a number of educational figures and financiers abroad, Palestinian and non-Palestinian, in Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. This board is assigned to support the university's progress in financial terms and provide academic expertise for it from abroad. It has a council of secretaries, a number of whom are members of the founding board, who supervise its progress domestically. It has a university council as is customary and it has a number of internal boards and councils which run its affairs. The university has a president appointed from the board of founders, Dr Muhammad Ahmad Saqr, but since he left the country in 1984 he has not been able yet to obtain permission from the local authorities to return to work domestically and an acting president also officially appointed by the responsible board, Dr Muhammad Siyam, is acting in his place.

The university curricula are the academic curricula stipulated for these various faculties, in addition to the curricula of the universities of the occupied territories, on the one hand, and foreign (Arab) universities. However, they are basically founded on the curricula of the noble al-Azhar University, especially in the faculties of Islamic law, and in addition to that curricula related to the nation domestically bearing on the causes of the supporting countries, especially the Gulf countries, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar.

The university so far has matriculated a number of graduates at two ceremonies which were held in the past 2 years. The number of graduates now comes to about 1,200 male and female students.

The university is pursuing the policy of totally separating female from male students, since there is no mingling in classes. Rather, the female students have their own buildings and each sex pursues its studies and activities in an atmosphere totally separate from the other.

AL-MUJTAMA': Do the graduates of the Islamic University find scope for work domestically and abroad?

Dr Siyam: There are problems facing the university, including the problem of graduates, since so far there have been political problems with the authorities domestically as the university has not yet obtained recognition as a university. Instead, the authorities recognize its degree as a fourth year of higher education and have not given it total recognition. This prevents the students from working in government schools and government jobs.

There also is the problem of non-recognition of the Islamic University degree by the aid agency. Therefore, the salaries of teachers working with the aid agency in Gaza do not improve when they obtain an Islamic University degree.

However, since the university is a member of the Federation of Arab Universities and the Federation of Islamic Universities, and is an active member, because its president abroad is engaged in substantial activity, Islamic

University graduates work in the Gulf countries and the countries of North Africa. Every graduate who applies to work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is accepted immediately, male or female, through the efforts of the Saudi educational attache in Amman. They also work in the countries of North Africa (Algeria, Morocco and so on). There is a number of graduates who have obtained excellent ratings whom the university employs as its readers, and it sends them abroad. We have people on fellowship who are graduates of the university pursuing higher studies in England and the United States. The rest are like Palestinian graduates of other universities.

AL-MUJTAMA': A university bearing the name Islamic -- was this name chosen for it by the founding board? Does this name apply in substance in terms of students and their Islamic orientations? That is, do the students possess Islamic ideas or orientations, or are there problems with this subject?

Dr Siyam: The fact is that when they thought about giving the university a name as an Islamic university, the founding board, like other people, considered the designation of importance. Tendencies existed to give it the name of the University of Gaza or the Scientific University in Gaza, but the people of the strip in general decided the matter and chose the name of the Islamic University in Gaza.

From the standpoint of substance, the curricula correspond totally to the name. They include various sciences through the medium of Islamic culture. As far as conduct goes, the university follows Islamic conduct as a platform and is anxious to spread Islamic culture or the rays of Islamic light in conduct, in addition to belief, seeks to apply curricula to conduct in life and tries to apply it to society in reviving religious, national and social occasions. It also tries to apply it to clothing. All the girls wear Islamic clothing. The university prohibits mixing and tries to develop the female element among female students, since female students receive their instruction at the hands of female teachers.

AL-MUJTAMA': Has the Islamic orientation in the occupied territories been a reflection of the people of the occupied territories, especially the people of the strip, as you pointed out, has the university had an influence on this growing trend, or is there interaction between the two aspects?

Dr Siyam: The fact is that the people of the strip, in general, are people of Islam and the preservation of Islamic traditions and belief. Therefore, they provide the university with a reserve of male and female students who are committed to Islam in general, although the university also has thorough involvement in spreading the Islamic appeal, as is followed in Kuwait, in giving the mosques their role. It has also had its part in the heart of Islam, and giving schools their role as well and trying to disseminate the role of Islam and Islamic activity in the secondary schools. Consequently, students are sorted out for the university most of whom, praise be to God, are committed to Islam. The fact is that everyone is committed to Islam, because the university's curricula, philosophy, conception and curricula are aimed at that. When the basis exists in the spirits of the students, that helps the university realize its goals and objectives.

AL-MUJTAMA': Thanks to Dr Muhammad Siyam for this valuable information on this rising Islamic citadel in our occupied territory, and we ask lofty

omnipotent God to protect it from every evil and loathesome thing and give it strength in the territories. May God make firm the hearts of the people working in it, teachers and students, and reward everyone who contributes to its material and moral support in the best manner. Until another meeting, God willing.

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CSO: 4404/268

UNIVERSITY POLITICAL BREAKDOWN OF PALESTINIANS REVIEWED

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 10 Mar 87 pp 26, 27

[Article by Abu Khalid: "The Adherents of Islam and FATAH Are the Two Main Currents in the Occupied Territories"]

[Text] From the occupied territories, we have received the following report, which sheds light on the population map in the occupied territories -- those occupied in 1948 and those occupied in 1967.

The source of the report enjoys the confidence of the adherents of Islam and nationalists (supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization, specifically the FATAH organization), is working earnestly to unify their activity in confronting the Zionist enemy and calls for coexistence between the two tendencies on grounds that the adherents of Islam proceed from an Islamic holy war premise which does not accept compromise over the full liberation of Palestinian soil from the loathesome Zionist occupation and, in terms of ideology, civilization, culture, conduct and holy war, stand in confrontation with the cultural colonialist onslaught of the Zionist enemy, and on grounds that the Liberation Organization, and its backbone FATAH, is a national liberation movement which contains nationalists from all segments of the Palestinian people, therefore is not lacking in personnel, staffs and leaders who have not been polluted by Marxist thinking alien to the nature of this Moslem nation, not many of whom are attracted by the brilliance of the imperialist West or have been recruited by auctioneering or surrendering regimes.

The report says:

The Palestinians in the occupied territories are concentrated in three areas:

The area occupied in 1948, the area of the triangle, upper Galilee, Lyddah, al-Ramlah, Yaffa, Haifa, 'Akka, Beersheeba and several other areas. Their number comes to about 600,000.

The West Bank of the Jordan River, which was occupied in 1967 and had been annexed to Jordan in 1950. The number of Palestinians in it comes to about 800,000.

The Gaza Strip, which was administratively subordinate to Egypt and was occupied in 1967; the number of Palestinians in it comes to about 650,000.

The Zionist occupation authorities have given Israeli nationality to the people in the area occupied since 1948 and they thus are subject to the laws of the Zionist entity. They cooperate with their brothers on the bank and in the strip in terms of exchanging visits and concerns, discussing problems and inviting givers of sermons and exhortations from the bank and the strip to their areas, such as the Ahmad Pasha al-Jazzar Mosque in 'Akka or the mosques of Yaffa and Haifa, and so forth.

Since these Palestinians, who have Israeli citizenship, have been deprived of religious education and matters related to Islamic law, domestically and through the Arab and Islamic countries, they have, in the Islamic University in Gaza, found their desired goal, now that the Palestinian learned men of religion who graduated from al-Azhar before the establishment of the Zionist entity have gone on to the mercy of almighty God.

The Islamic University in Gaza accommodated a number of students in these regions and started to accept a number of sons of Palestinians who were members of parliament (the Knesset) so that their fathers could protect them from being barred. It then admitted further numbers. When they graduate, they will return to their areas to teach Islamic law and perform the appeal among their children and their tribes.

In the town of al-Tibah in the area of the triangle in the center, the Islamic bodies are trying to establish an Islamic faculty with support from the League of the Islamic World, and the foundation stone for this Islamic faculty was laid in the midst of the Zionist entity.

The Palestinians of the West Bank are governed by Jordanian laws alongside the Zionist military ones. They have about five universities, alongside a large number of higher institutes.

In the Gaza Strip, in which Moslems account for about 95 percent of the Palestinians, Christian students are permitted to enroll in the Islamic University in Gaza on condition that they commit themselves to the laws, statutes and curricula of the university.

Intellectual activity in the occupied territories:

With respect to intellectual activity, the Palestine Liberation Organization in the occupied territories has a voice that is heard, and the leaders of the organization domestically, especially the chairman of the organization and a number of leaders, such as Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sayih, chairman of the national council, his deputy Salim Za'nun (Abu al-Adib), and Ahmad Milhim, have respect.

The West Bank has currents besides that of the Liberation Organization, the left has weight, and in the student and other elections the balance has shifted between them. The left may win in some organizations, and contacts or views might come to prominence through the national universities and organizations. The five universities are:

Bir Zeit University: Christians and leftists dominate it, and their concurrence in opposition to the adherents of Islam and the organization is well known.

Bethlehem University: Christians and leftists also dominate this to a large extent.

Al-Najah National University: The Palestine Liberation Organization students are dominant.

Hebron University: It is Islamic and the left has almost no presence there. Rather, it is the Islamic and nationalist blocs between which dominance over the university shifts back and forth year after year.

Dominance belonged to the adherents of Islam this year, to the organization last year and to the adherents of Islam the year before that.

The University of Jerusalem: This includes a number of faculties. It has no signs of student activity because its faculties are subordinate to official bodies. The Faculty of Science and Technology in Abu Dis is subordinate to Kuwait, the Faculty of the Appeal and the Principles of Religion is subordinate to the Jordanian Religious Endowments [Ministry] and student activity is not evident in it.

In the Gaza Strip, the adherents of Islam and the nationalists own the streets, and if the adherents of Islam had been a bit more generous and the nationalists had committed themselves to Islamic morality, other elements would not have been able to acquire a presence in the strip, because the weight of the left in the strip is small and people reject it and are familiar with its deviant positions. However, in the university, specifically, dominance belongs to the adherents of Islam, who account for twice the other groups combined.

In the Doctors' Union in Gaza, the left won one-quarter of the seats, the adherents of Islam won one-quarter as well and the nationalists won the other half.

In the Engineers' and Lawyers' Union, the right and the nationalists are considered to have the greatest weight. The streets, the institutions and the university are all under the aegis of the adherents of Islam and the nationalists, the supporters of FATAH specifically.

We do not have any comment on this report, except to call on the Palestinian people, possessors of a just cause and sacred territory, to return further to God in terms of belief and platform, now that the fraudulence of all non-Islamic theories in treating the causes of the Moslems and in particular the cause of Palestine has been revealed. Since the Moslems all consider the Palestinian cause their primary cause, the Palestinians specifically must be the first to advocate the Islamic nature of the cause and its assumption of an Islamic cast, and they will find their strategic reserve in all the Moslems, so that the liberation of Palestine may take place with God's aid. There is no victory except from God.

SCOPE, HISTORY OF GAZA ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SUMMARIZED

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Nov 86 pp 30, 31

[Article by Sa'adah Sawadih: "The Islamic University in Gaza"]

[Text] Israeli officials, in succession, warmly welcomed the notion of the establishment of local universities on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They believed that they were a suitable means for graduating generations of "people devoted full-time to academic affairs" who would read about the nation in books and forget about it as soon as they closed them. They also viewed them as factories for incubating a specific Palestinian "type" whom they would encourage and call "moderate."

What happened was different from that.

In the words of Mira Tsurieff, a researcher in Tel Aviv University's Shiloah Institute, "It appears that they were under an illusion, and that the reality was totally the opposite of that."

Tsurieff considers that the universities turned, "in the years of the late seventies, into political rather than academic centers. Clear political tendencies started to appear among the students." She went further and said, "The Arab universities on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip are part of the Palestine Liberation Organization's institutions and agencies."

The Birth of the University

The Islamic University in Gaza is the most recent of our cluster of universities in the occupied territories.

It was established in 1978 and in the first academic year consisted of three faculties. It now contains seven faculties and more than 20 areas of specialization.

Its absorptive capacity developed rapidly, from 123 students in the opening year to 3,100 students in the academic year 1983-84, 4,030 students in 1984-85 and 4,493 students in 1985-86.

From 12 lecturers and employees in the first year, its employees in 1984 came to more than 260 in number, of whom faculty members totalled 175, 45 of whom had doctorates, 60 had master's degrees and 70 were research and teaching assistants.

After offering instruction in the classrooms of the Palestine Secondary Religious Institute in Gaza, it came to have its own buildings, established on an area of 100 donums near the Mediterranean coast, containing 60 classrooms, 17 laboratories and a library containing 25,000 books and volumes.

The notion of establishing a university in the strip arose in 1977, when Anwar al-Sadat's policies of preparing for peace with the enemy were reflected on the levels of accommodation of the strip's students in Egyptian universities, to which they went for the most part. That year, most applications of people from the strip to Egyptian universities were rejected. A number of figures in the strip called for an investigation of the situation, and they concluded that it was necessary to establish a local university. With the response of the people of the strip abroad, especially in the Arab Gulf countries, the university was able to open its doors the coming year.

Faculties

Proceeding from the thought to the reality, the current picture of the university appears as follows:

The Faculty of Islamic and Secular Law: This was established in 1978 as an extension of the Palestine Religious Institute (al-Azhar). At that time it based itself on the bills of the noble al-Azhar University and followed the yearly academic system in teaching. Then in 1981 it shifted to the system of accredited hours. The requirements for graduation then were 144 accredited hours. Its students came to 505 in number in the past academic year.

The Faculty of Principles of Religion: This opened in 1979. It teaches Islamic curricula for the year of accreditation. It thus teaches all the students of the university for a whole year and gives instruction in a number of Islamic requirements throughout the entire university.

Its students came to 583 in number in the academic year 1985-86.

The Faculty of Literature: This started in 1978 under the name of the Arabic Language Faculty, then assumed its present name when other departments, for English language and literature, history and geography, were opened.

Its students the last academic year were 685 in number.

The Faculty of Education: Teaching in that started in 1979. It now consists of three departments: social studies, Arabic language and science.

The number of students in it came to 1,466 last year.

The Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences: It was named the Faculty of Commerce and Economics when it opened in 1980. After the

accreditation year it began with two areas of specialization, economics and accounting and administration. The specialized area of administration was then separated from accounting, and they became two separate areas of specialization.

The students in it last year numbered 719.

The Faculty of Science: That was opened in 1980. The university administration views it as the nucleus of the scientific faculties. Therefore, the students in it can apply theories in practice in all areas of specialization -- chemistry, physics, biology, geology and mathematics.

The number of students in it was 535 in the academic year 1985-86.

The Faculty of Nursing: This opened last academic year with a small number of students, no more than 30 in number. Its academic plan is still in the process of assuming final concrete form.

Although the occupation authorities still do not recognize the university from the academic standpoint, it is domestically a member of the Palestinian higher council of education and has been a member of the Federation of Arab Universities since 1980 and the League of Islamic Universities since 1984.

Every university on the bank and in the strip is a "trap" into which Israel has fallen. Mira Tsurieff describes this "trap" by saying "If the universities continue to be open, they will apparently continue to constitute a source of ferment and provocation. If Israel decides to shut them down, it will stir public opinion up against itself in academic and cultural circles in all areas of the world."

Sixty Rooms

The university gives particular attention to the Palestine cause, since it teaches more than 10 curriculum items on Palestine, dealing with the land, inhabitants, history and sufferings.

The number of university people in various areas of specialization on fellowship for higher studies (the master's and doctorate) is 67.

In the middle of the university is a large mosque which is truly considered an artistic work of Islamic architecture, but it has remained a skeleton that has not been completed since the occupation, awaiting the help of people who are zealous concerned for God's religion.

Because of the shortage in buildings and the obstinacy of the occupation authorities, the university has designed a study tent, which in the occupied territories has been called the Islamic University tent. The tent is 200 square meters in area. It is very well suited to teaching and has no partitions which would obstruct the vision of the professor and his students.

The university has been expanded in its buildings. It has a permanent two-story building 2,200 square meters in area and the permanent library

building 1,400 square meters in area, consisting of three floors. The other buildings and halls are of cement brick and asbestos, and the classrooms come to 60 in number.

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CSO: 4404/268

PAPER DESCRIBES TRANSLATION SERVICES, COSTS

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (MARKETS supplement) in Hebrew 20 Feb 87 p 2

[Article by Dalia Peleg: "Translations for All the Languages of the World"]

[Text] What does one do when one needs to have a letter or some other material translated into another language?

The Bar Ilan University has a department for translation studies; the course takes 2 years, and a diploma is awarded upon completion.

But if all you need is to translate a letter or a document, you do not go to the University for it. A large number of offices and institutes promise professional translations, of international standard, in all kinds of languages. But who is going to check the accuracy and quality of the translation?

"People usually think that anyone who speaks a language can be a translator, but that is not at all the case. Being a professional translator requires skill, familiarity with the material, and education, not just knowledge of the language," says Batia, a translator with the Manpower Personnel office.

Aliza Goldman and her husband, owners of the firm Translators Association and themselves translators, agree. "The translating profession requires feeling, and diplomacy does not always have the last word." A person who is not familiar with the branch may, according to Aliza, "fall into bad hands, because the field is wide-open and there is no supervision."

Translators Association employs many translators in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem. They work in various languages, among them Russian, Persian, Dutch, Japanese, and so forth. The firm deals mainly in technical translations and brochure editing and printing, and less in ordinary letters. The price is set according to the nature of the material and the number of typewritten lines.

Although languages like Chinese and Japanese are less common, technical German is one of the most difficult languages to translate, says Mrs Goldman. "Our Germans have lived here over 40 years and are not aware of the linguistic changes that have occurred in German in the past years. The Germans are much better than we are in technical subjects," she added.

The translations are punched directly into a computer, after which the customer gets the diskette. The advantage in this is that the customer can make changes--for example, in a contract--even much later, without having to translate and print the material all over again.

The cost of having a letter translated and typed ranges between NIS [New Israeli Shekel] 21-29 per page (the price is inclusive value added tax). For complex material, such as scientific subjects, there is a 10-30 percent increment.

The translating agency of "Amnon and Tamar" in Tel Aviv works with German, Hebrew, and English. The cost of one page of typed translation (25-28 lines) is NIS25.

The Manpower Personnel firm in Tel Aviv works with various languages, including Chinese and Japanese, and handles legal, commercial, technical, and other material. Here, too, the price is set according to the number of lines and nature of the translation. Most costly is scientific-technical material or complicated legal documents. The price for translating and typing a simple letter is NIS18 per page (28 lines). Translation of a letter in an uncommon language cost NIS29 per page.

"Ahuva--Office Services" in Ramat Hasharon translates English, German, and French. You can have a letter typed--without translation--for NIS5 per page. Letter translation and typing is NIS20 per page.

12782
CSO:4423/18

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL LOCAL INDUSTRIES DISCUSSED

Chamber of Industry Director Interviewed

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 12 Feb 87 p 4

[Article by Pam Dougherty]

[Text]

AS A developing country with a small domestic market, poor resources and an unstable political setting, Jordan hardly seems a promising location for industrial development, but Amman Chamber of Industry Director General Mohamed Jaber believes it has good prospects if the industries are chosen carefully.

At present most of Jordan's small and medium sized industries produce import substitution goods and while Mr Jaber believes this is necessary to establish the country's industrial base, he says, export oriented industries are the key to a successful, long-term industrialization.

He suggests the pharmaceutical industry is an example of what can be done. In the past 10 years, at least five Jordanian pharmaceutical companies have succeeded in establishing themselves both in the local market and as exporters throughout the Arab World.

The industry's strength, he says, lies in the fact that it is run by educated personnel who are practising what they know and the computer software industry could enjoy the same advantages. There are now 30 software companies in Jordan and a number of them are working on modifying personnel computers and developing Arabic language software which would be exportable to other Arab states.

The chemical industry, which includes plastics, detergents and cosmetics, also has potential for generating exports to the Arab World. Companies are already producing a range of goods from raw materials available either in Jordan itself or from Saudi Arabia and once again Jordan has the edge over most of its Arab neighbours when it comes to the availability of skilled personnel for development work.

Mr Jaber would also like to see a greater government role in supporting research and development work so that local industries can move beyond just copying the results of the research efforts of the developed world. But it is not only the Arab World that Mr Jaber sees as offering good prospects for Jordanian exporters. He points out that as developing country, Jordan enjoys certain privileges in both the US and the EEC markets for the sale of categories of manufactured items, which they are no longer so interested in producing themselves. He believes that East Asian countries are doing a better job than Jordan in taking advantage of these privileges.

He quotes textile manufacturers as an example. The kingdom's textile industry is organized largely on a cottage industry basis but is quite strong and the two largest companies have developed good sales to the army as well as to Iraq and Egypt. It is only recently

however that manufacturers have begun to tap the US market and they are still not well organized in assessing market possibilities and formalities. Despite these textile exports to the US in 1986 were worth \$10 million and the figure is expected to rise to \$20 million in 1987.

What Mr Jaber would like to see is a strong government effort to market the Jordanian economy and to promote its industries. He believes that the country's embassies should devote as much attention to economic as to political activity. They should help to promote Jordan as a safe place for investment. He does not want to see foreign companies simply selling brand names to local companies; he wants them to participate in the equity of companies here and in the effective transfer of technology to the country.

In general, however, Mr Jaber is not personally in favour of government protection of industry through the banning of foreign imports. He says some protection may be necessary to help a new industry become established but generally, he believes, monopolies are bad for the consumer and push down the quality of products. He would prefer to see competition maintained so that the buyer has a choice and the manufacturer is forced to keep up his standards. He noted that where Jordanian manufacturers bring out a

quality product, they do become established in the market.

The Amman Chamber of Industry was established in its present form in 1962 and now has 3,000 members; some 700 of them with 10 or more employees. Its major responsibility is to represent the industrial sector in dealings with the wider community.

It provides consultations when new laws affecting industry are

under consideration, participates in trade and industrial missions and in marketing activities abroad and in Jordan.

On the local scene, the Chamber provides information on industry for potential investors including statistics and recommendations suitable sectors for new investment. It also carries out certain practical activities such as the issuing of certificates of origins for local goods.

New Industrial City

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 12 Feb 87 p 4

[Article by Frida Mdanat]

[Text]

THE SAHAB Industrial Estate, eight kilometres to the south-west area of Amman with a total area of 2,550 dunums accommodates 80 different industries: food, medicine, electrical appliances, chemicals, irons, wood and metal furniture and solar systems. It has a work-force of 2,500 made up of labourers, engineers, technicians and administrators.

Dr Fayez Sheimat, Director of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) in Sahab said that upon the completion of the project, it could accommodate 400 industries and offer job opportunities to over 20,000 people.

JIEC, established in 1980 with a budget of JD 12 million, is run by a 12 member board of directors. It aims at encouraging and transferring industries to industrial 'cities' by offering financial, technical and administrative assistance to in-

vestors. It would provide incentives and boost some of the industries which could replace imported products. This move, said Dr Zheimat, will contribute immensely in attracting more foreign exchange into Jordan, reduce unemployment and enhance the evolution of technology.

JIEC in line with its policies of encouragement, makes available the land which can be rented or bought by investors at reasonable rates with payments on long and easy instalment basis. It offers all the necessary facilities such as water, sewerage and electricity supplies to the industrialists within two weeks of application to the Corporation, following his acquisition of the relevant license from the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The industrial estate also gives exemption in land, building taxes and license fees and works to protect the environment from pollution and other hazards caused by

the industries.

The Sahab Industrial city, a model for future industrial 'cities' to be established in Aqaba, Salt and Irbid, is a comprehensive and complex facilities with supermarkets, banks, restaurants telephone and telex services. A Vocational training centre and a secondary industrial schools are also present. In terms of security, it has police and public security offices, an insurance company branch, offices for the Royal Scientific Society and Ministry of Labour.

On the success of some of the industries, Dr Zheimat said that more detailed and accurate studies should be made prior to their establishment especially in relation to the market forces. He added that efforts should be geared towards a more comprehensive industrial establishments in Jordan and in the Arab World.

Problems Facing Clothing Industry

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 12 Feb 87 p 4

[Article by Wafa Abdel-Hamid]

[Text]

HOW DOES the recent cabinet decision to increase import duties

on ready-made clothes by 10 per cent affect the public? I made rounds of a few import-oriented boutiques to find out. Mixed reactions were drawn from some businessmen; some praised it, while others were very critical.

'These measures would mainly affect Jordanian customers,' said an owner of a boutique. 'Our volume of sales would certainly be affected by such a decision.' He explained that as prices increase, the volume of sales tend to decrease. Naturally, there must be a raise in prices as worldwide in-

creases on materials and ready-made clothes have already been accomplished.

He added that before the decision, boutique owners were paying 65 per cent tax on the total volume of imported clothes. But with the increase in custom duty payments, they have to pay 71 per cent. In other words, customers have no choice, but to go for the local stuff clothes. Clothes, however are as basic to human beings as food is.

He added that thread, buttons,

belts, materials and even the tailors are being imported. These is no real local manufacturing set up for clothing materials. With these measures, the government hopes to protect the local industry from foreign competition; but, 'how can the government protect the local-ready-to-wear industry? He added, 'if I open a factory, there is bound to be no protection for my designs because once I make them and exhibit in my boutique, the whole country adopts it thereby bringing a decline in my sales.'

Electrical Industry Director Interviewed

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 12 Feb 87 p 4

[Article by Frida Mdanat]

[Text]

THE PRODUCTION director of Arab Electrical Industries (AEI) at Sahab, which produces electrical fittings and accessories according to international standards, Mr Immad Shamma, says that the AEI works on three shifts throughout 24 hours of the day. With a workforce of 70 people, it produces three million pieces daily; 80 per cent of which is exported to a number of Arab countries and the rest 20 per cent is earmarked for local markets.

He is proud to say 'Made in Jordan', and contends that AEI would not have achieved what it did without the assistance offered at the Sahab Industrial City. On the other hand, says Mr Shamma, 'working in industry is like growing an olive tree.' This is because, as he explains, olive trees need a lot of patience and protection before they start to give any yield.

He hopes that the different relevant authorities in Jordan would be more patient,

co-operative and supportive to industrialists who strive for better facilities as far as problems in securing bank loans, guarantees, transportation and shipment of products are concerned. There should also be deeper consideration concerning taxation on imported material for industry on one hand, and imported goods for trade on the other. He firmly believes, more government incentives to protect and promote local industry should be granted.

Tour of Pharmaceutical Factory

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 12 Feb 87 p 5

[Article by Venita Maudsley]

[Text]

THE Arab Centre for Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals is unique in that it is the only firm in the whole of the Arab World which manufactures capsules for the pharmaceutical industry. The Company was established in 1984 and the capsule plant went into operation in November 1985.

The factory is located in Amman's Industrial Estate on the Az-

raq Road. The Managing Director, Mr Adnan Faraj, who was born in Nazareth, has worked for some years in Kuwait as a hospital pharmacist and later here in Jordan as a production manager in a pharmaceutical plant. It was then that he realized that there was a great need in this part of the world for a capsule-manufacturing plant, as previously, all capsules had to be imported usually from the USA.

The factory was purpose-built, as it is of extreme importance to have a controlled environment. For instance, the temperature and humidity must remain at a constant level at all times. The machinery is ultra-modern and very sophisticated.

The gelatin, which is the basic ingredient of capsules, is imported from Australia, Belgium, England, France and West Germany. It is 100 per cent beef-derived. No pork gelatin is used; a fact which should be appreciated throughout the Muslim world. The other basic ingredient, water, is purified by a deionizing process of reverse osmosis. The colours of the capsules are chosen by the clients and the dyes used are all approved by the food and drug administration in America.

"Kathabar" is the brand-name of the enormous machine which is the nerve-centre of the environmental-control system. It keeps the air temperature and humidity at the required level; it also sterilizes the air, chemically, thus preventing bacterial contamination.

Production begins by the weigh-

ing of gelatin and additives according to a master formula. They are put into a gelatin-melter which also removes air-bubbles. After this they are transferred to 'feed-tanks' where the colours are added. After prolonged mixing, the feed tanks are connected to the production machines. In these machines, hundreds of 'pin bars' are dipped into the gelatin. They are then spun to ensure uniform distribution after which they go through a series of low-temperature kilns where they are set and dried.

In another part of the machine the film is stripped from the pin bars, blades cut off the extra length and push-rods put the two ends of the capsules together into the pre-locked position (later, when they are filled, they will be put into the locked position). There are four production machines which produce one million capsules each per day.

Most customers wish to have their name stamped on the capsule. For this, CPC have a printing area where the words can be printed either vertically or horizontally on the capsule with edible ink.

In the sorting room, the capsules go through a series of stringent quality checks which conform to US military standard 105, after which they are packed in boxes lined with aluminium. Throughout production there are constant laboratory checks to ensure the absence of pathogenic bacteria. Should the microbiologists deem it necessary then capsules are sterilized by means of ethylene oxide gas.

In its first full year of production, the turnover of the ACPC was over JD 500,000 and this year it is projected that that will rise to three-quarters of a million. In 1986, 50 per cent of the produce was exported to Canada. Approximately 15 per cent was purchased in Jordan and the remaining 35 per cent was exported to some Arab countries, Greece, Cyprus and Malaysia. The Marketing manager, Mr Bader Rashid, says that the company hopes to export to Western and Eastern Europe in the near future and also to North Africa. And they are at present seeking registration with the health authorities in the various countries.

Center Promotes Local Exports

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 12 Feb 87 p 5

[Article by Ibtisam Dababneh]

[Text]

THE JORDANIAN Trade Corporation Centre (JTCC), established in the year 1973, aims at promoting Jordanian exports and implementing trade and commercial agreements signed between Jordan and other Arab and friendly countries. The JTCC emerged as a result of the need to implement the economic co-operation principles as stated in the Arab Economic Community's protocol.

Towards this end, the JTCC has opened several branches and offices in a number of Arab countries to inform Arab citizens about Jordanian industries and products. Some of these products compete favourably with other foreign products, a Jordanian businessman stressed.

The JTCC, on the other hand, also facilitates contacts between customers in the Arab countries and the Kingdom's industrialists whenever a Jordanian trade exhibition takes place. Furthermore, it co-operates and co-ordinates with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to protect and safeguard the reputation and standards of Jordanian products in both Arab and foreign markets. This is achieved through emphasizing the importance of improving and maintaining qualitative production, in accordance with the Ministry's required standardization measurement policies.

The JTCC has been very active in implementing commercial agreements signed between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and with

with countries like Tunis, Iraq, Syria and Oman. These agreements, have incorporated in them, clearly clauses which say that trade centres should be established with a restricted amount at each exhibition. Oman is the only country which has so far permitted Jordan to sell directly to its citizens, with minimum restriction.

However, Iraq and Egypt have a permanent Jordanian exhibition open to the public and businessmen interested in signing commercial deals. JTCC is currently studying the possibility of opening another permanent Jordanian trade centre in Syria and Tunisia. The exhibition in Sudan, due to difficult circumstances which the nation is going through, was su-

spended. But an official source has assured that it would soon be opened again to the public.

All the JTCC's branches and offices in the other countries are supervised by a number of economic attaches assigned by the Ministry of Trade and Industry to carry out certain responsibilities. These are: to facilitate the process of contacts and to strengthen them between the private sectors in the respective countries; to improve and promote commercial exchange between Jordan and other countries and to provide new markets for the Jordanian products. Besides this, the attaches are considered the 'connecting chain' between exporters and importers.

'The Jordanian private sector is very active and competent' but 'one

factor among many others that has caused the current recession in the local market is the unavailability of feasibility studies needed when establishing a new industry.' In other words, as an economist added 'one can find so many industries established which produce exactly the same products not only in Jordan but in the rest of the Arab World.' He commented that the concerned authorities should reconsider the local market in the aspects of what products are needed and what products are in surplus.

According to another industrialist who has participated in a number of Jordanian exhibitions held in the Arab and European countries, the only product attractive to the European community was the traditional Jordanian handicrafts, especially souvenirs made from olive wood and shells. These are

in addition to rugs and embroidered textile.

The JTCC is run by an administrative council made up of the private and public sectors such as, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Amman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, all participating in providing full support for the JTCC to achieve its objectives in promoting local industries and products, thereby helping considerably to improve Jordan's economy.

Recent statistics issued by the Amman Chamber of Industry showed Jordanian exports during the year 1986 were as follows:

— Jordanian exports to Iraq are valued at JD 44,450.870, compared to JD 742,788.70 in the 1985. Exports to Iraq included leather, chemical, plastic products as well as agricultural and foodstuff products.

Government Incentives to Aid Industries

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 12 Feb 87 p 5

[Article by Mutale Chilangua]

[Text]

LOCAL INDUSTRY in Jordan today is a far cry from what it was in the 50's and the 60's definitely. This view is shared by Dr Akram Karmoul, Director of Industry at the Ministry of Industries and Trade. Like all developing countries, there is room

for improvement in Jordan's industrial sector. Encouragement of local industry began with concessions being granted to firms who dealt with cement, potash, tannery and vegetable oils.

Every country desires to lower its dependence on the importation of products that could be produced locally and this country is no exception. So far, several laws have been established to encourage local industry namely: Encouragement of Industry Law which offers tax exemptions for about seven to 12 years.

Under the Industrial Estate Law there is the possibility of eventual land ownership. Two extra tax free years are given above and beyond those stated under the Encouragement of Industrial law. The third law, and

perhaps the most favourable for people in industry who need a lot of machinery from abroad, is the Custom Law.

Machinery can be brought into Jordan duty free. The same goes for raw materials brought in under the temporary entry of raw material and the draw back system. This involves bringing in raw materials to produce food which is for export. The Industrial Bank Law provides for up to 50 per cent financing of the cost for materials and equipment. Preference is naturally given to industries in areas away from Amman.

Dr Karmoul gave examples of special incentives that have been given to encourage local industry. Banning of imports like fruit juices for example has been enforced in order to encourage local production. Suspension of licensing affecting certain sectors have also been enforced at times in order to prevent over production which could be detrimental for produces if prices fell too low. Local industries are encouraged to export their products to neigh-

bouring countries by the establishment of Bilateral Trade Agreements. For example, those entered into with Iraq and Syria.

Such trade agreements encourage the formation of Joint Holding Companies like those established with Iraq and Saudi Arabia to produce white cement and in the agro industry. Financing for such ventures is usually provided JD 18 million by Commercial Banks (The Industrial Development Bank provided JD 18 million of loans in 1980 and JD 42 million in 1985). Export of industrial commodities have risen from JD 50 million in 1975 to JD 21 million at the end of 1985.

Of the industries present in Jordan, the mining industry has shown a 26.8 per cent annual growth. Beside agro-industry, work has begun to improve the Petro Chemical Industry and the extraction of valuable materials from the Dead Sea.

The licensing of industries during the period of 1981-85 included 681 medium industries (those with less than five employees) and over 2,000 large industries. There is obviously still a growing need for more industries in order to curb the national rate of unemployment.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade is committed to introducing policies which will help promote investment in industry. The initiative is the part of the private sector which should become more involved in industry in order to lower the trade deficit.

/9274

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MINISTER ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE BOMBING SUSPECTS' CASE

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 25 Feb-3 Mar 87 p 21

[Text] Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti minister of interior, indicated that new details will be made known about the suspects accused of bombings and arson which occurred during the meetings of the fifth Islamic Summit Conference. He said that the details will be revealed during the trial of the suspects.

In his interview with AL-MAJALLAH, the minister said that the swift arrest of the suspects is attributable to the outstanding methods followed by the security apparatus and the cooperation of the citizens. He added that the suspects' case was transferred to the state security prosecutor's office as soon as the preliminary investigations were completed. The minister mentioned that life in Kuwait proceeded normally during the meetings of the Islamic conference in spite of the precision and organization of the security measures, to such extent that the citizens and residents did not sense any unusual measures during that period. The minister commended the effectiveness of cooperation in the area of security between the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and also between the Arab states in general, taking in consideration that the security of the region and the Arab security are an indivisible entity.

Following are the details of the interview of Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad:

[Question] Can you add new details about how the suspects who are accused of the recent bombings that occurred during the meetings of the fifth Islamic Summit Conference were arrested?

[Answer] The alertness of our security apparatus, their outstanding methods in following sequence of these events and the degree of the citizens' cooperation, and their interest in the security and stability of the nation played a big role in the swift arrest of the criminals. The details will be made known to everybody during the suspects fair trial.

[Question] Are there any indications that the suspects are affiliated with party organizations?

[Answer] The facts, that the investigative authorities have concerning these crimes, fully indicate the circumstances and conditions surrounding the events, and indicate whether the perpetrators had special affiliations or connections with outside parties or not.

[Question] How were the suspects able to introduce arms into Kuwait? Were arms, other than those announced, found?

[Answer] As I mentioned before, the concerned authorities are continuing their investigations to find out everything related to those events. As for the articles that were found with the suspects, their pictures were published by the various information media.

The Summit Results

[Question] Has the ministry of interior concluded its investigation of those suspects and referred them to the state security court?

[Answer] Yes, as soon as the preliminary investigations were concluded, the suspects were referred to the office of the state security prosecutor which is the concerned authority.

[Question] What is your view concerning the results of the Islamic Summit Conference? What was the extent of security measures which were taken during its meetings?

[Answer] Holding the Islamic Summit Conference was the equivalent of a live portrait that reflects the extent of the importance of cooperation between the countries of the Islamic world. Its results indicate the dimensions of the issues which we live through and the Muslims' hopes for the necessity of adopting a unified stand in confronting them.

Thanks to God, the conference succeeded in adopting the appropriate resolutions which conform with the importance of these issues and the hopes that the Muslims had in the Kuwait summit.

As for the extent of the conference's security measures it is noted that in spite of the extreme precision, and outstanding organization of the security measures taken during the Islamic summit, as acknowledged by everybody, life continued at its normal pace. Neither the citizens nor the residents sensed any unusual procedures, which emphasizes the effectiveness of our security apparatus.

Crown prince and prime minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Aldallah explained that the conference was a practical experiment during which the security forces proved that they are the country's open eyes. They benefited well from this experiment.

[Question] What do you think about transferring the traffic administration into an independent establishment under the direct supervision of the minister so that it can pursue the traffic needs and adapt to the development of the various traffic areas?

[Answer] We always take care to develop the procedures in the different branches of the ministry in accordance with the process of providing what is required to facilitate the services offered to the citizens, and to implement them in a perfect way.

[Question] What are the lessons gained from the events of the last few weeks?

[Answer] I would like to express my appreciation to AL-MAJALLAH for its concern about covering the affairs that preoccupy the Arab citizen. It is my pleasure to assure everybody of the alertness of our security apparatus and the effectiveness of cooperation between the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab states in general in the area of security, taking in consideration that the security of the region and the Arab security are an indivisible entity.

12655/7687

CSO: 4404/262

MEASURES TAKEN IN AFTERMATH OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 21 Feb 87 p 15

[Text] After the Kuwaiti ministry of external affairs formed the follow-up apparatus by order of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the prince of Kuwait, coordination began with the apparatus under the chairmanship of Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the undersecretary of state for the ministry of external affairs. These apparatus started coordinating their efforts with a similar apparatus which was formed at the prince's office to draw up the plan for Kuwaiti action towards following-up the implementation of the fifth Islamic summit resolutions. Some Kuwaiti officials interviewed by AL-TADAMUN feel that Kuwait's concern in implementing these resolutions is beyond imagination. However, this concern will be futile unless it receives support from all the Islamic countries which are members of the Islamic conference organization. Those officials stated that the two Kuwaiti follow-up apparatus tend to arrange the Islamic resolutions in terms of priority and importance so that the procedure of Kuwaiti action will be logical and harmonious with the treatment of the issues according to their importance to both the Arab and Islamic worlds.

While preparation were started to determine the procedure of following-up the Islamic resolutions and their implementation, Kuwaiti efforts, towards grave issues which are becoming worse were not obstructed. Several days ago, Kuwait started to move along two paths. The first path is at the deep end of the Arab Peninsula to help the concerned people in South Yemen in confronting the prevailing problems created by the January incidents. The second path is via Damascus to help in dealing with the crisis of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. Concerning the situation in Yemen, the minister of state for external affairs, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, assumed responsibility for shuttle visits between Ban'aa and Aden according to the directives of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the prince of Kuwait, who last Saturday, 14 February received a telephone call from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, president of the Yemen Democratic Republic. During the call they discussed the overall Arab developments especially as they relate to Yemen. Minister al-'Usaymi started his difficult mission in Sanaa where he met twice with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salah, the Yemeni president, and then with other Yemeni officials. AL-TADAMUN has learned that he visited Ta'izz, a visit viewed by Arab diplomats as necessary before going to Aden because there is a need to know the real facts before starting to discuss the complicated Yemeni problem.

AL-TADAMUN has learned that Kuwait is not currently working towards holding meetings between officials from the North and South. Its basic strategy is confined to solving the most serious problem caused by the events of January 1986; namely, the problem of having more than 30,000 South Yemen refugees in the North. In minister Al-'Usaymi's point of view, as he conveyed it to AL-TADAMUN, that problem is very serious in addition to being a huge burden on North Yemen because it is not easy for a country, living under the economic conditions of the Yemen Arab Republic, to house and feed 30,000 refugees whatever the amount of aid that Sanaa may get.

Kuwait's action regarding the Palestinian position in Lebanon and the dangers to which the Palestinian camps are subjected, was not any less concerned. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, prince of Kuwait made a telephone call to Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian president. The prince also received a message from the Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the organizational committee of the PLO, concerning the conditions of Palestinians' life in their camps in Lebanon. In the meantime, the head of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society, 'Abd-al-Aziz Hamad al-Saqr, invited the Union of the Arab Crescent and Red Cross societies for a meeting in Kuwait. The meeting was actually held. Kuwait also made contacts at various Arab, Islamic, and international levels to secure an appropriate pressure to lift the siege off the camps in Beirut and South Lebanon. The Kuwaiti minister of health and the chairman of the executive council of the Arab ministers of health made intensive contacts to strengthen the political efforts that are being exerted in Damascus to make Damascus exert its efforts to lift the siege. When the efforts to introduce quantities of medical and food supplies to the camps succeeded, the Kuwaiti cabinet of ministers last Sunday adopted, a resolution to speed up preparations of medical and alimentary aids and transport them quickly to the camps. While these Kuwaiti efforts were continued deep in the Arab Peninsula and the heart of Syria, parallel contacts and efforts were exerted quietly to take advantage of the peripheral meetings promoted by Kuwait through its prince. These meetings included Arab leaders at the periphery of the Islamic summit to prepare an atmosphere and conditions needed for holding an Arab summit. Until such an unfortunate summit is held, Arab days will be full of misery and tragedy.

12655/12851
CSO: 4404/262

KUWAIT

CONSCRIPTION OFFICE CALLS FOR YOUTHS TO FULFILL MILITARY DUTY

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Feb 87 p 14

[Text] The General Conscription Administration has decided to call the ready draftees on the 21st of next month to fulfill the compulsory military duty together with the group of 21 non-university draftees.

The General Conscription Administration called upon the citizens born between 1957 and 1967, and who have not yet fulfilled the compulsory duty and who were not exempted, or excluded from service or had their service postponed, to contact their draft boards to straighten up their situations, and receive their notification memos.

The Administration warned that the draftees who delay their response to this call for national duty more than 15 days, as of yesterday, will be subject to the penalties stated in the compulsory conscription statute.

12655/7687

CSO: 4404/262

PREMIER OUTLINES WAR AIMS, STRATEGY, STATUS

Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Mar 87 p 3

[Interview with Premier Mir Hoseyn Musavi: "Our Strategy Is To Destroy the Iraqi Military Machine and Crush Its Combat Capability"]

[Text] Our fellow paper ETTELA'AT held an exclusive interview with Eng Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, in which he answered questions from the paper's political and economic departments on Iran's war strategy, its diplomatic activities in the framework of the war, Iranian circumstances in the event a coup were to occur in Iraq and the government's programs for the new economic phases.

At the outset of the interview, the correspondent of ETTELA'AT newspaper's political department asked the prime minister:

"In the course of the Kerbala' Five operations, when the Moslem fighting men were overrunning the Iraqi army's fortifications and strong points east of Basrah in succession, officials declared that we did not have the goal of occupying Basra and would settle the course of the war beyond its gates. What does this sentence mean? On the basis of what strategy was the planning to destroy Saddam's army made?"

Eng Musavi replied,

"If we reflect on the nature of the Kerbala' Five operations and study them closely, we will find that the operations area is very sensitive and is in fact considered Iraq's vital nerve. Therefore, Saddam established his greatest defensive fortifications in this area and he has now thrown himself into this net which he set up, which has forced him to move the elite of his army's forces into this area, immediately to lose them. The bloodletting of the Iraqi forces in these operations has broken the back of Saddam's army and prepared the ground for the victories to come. The world has now started to be aware of this important event through the news and reports of the world news agencies and press.

"Going into Basrah would have its special problems, not of course from the war angle -- rather, it would have different problems from other angles. We

have the objective of inflicting defeat on Saddam's regime, not occupying a given Iraqi city. During this stage, we have caused Basrah actually to fall into our grasp in order to exert political, economic and military pressure on Saddam, as well as having the Islamic Republic take the rein of the initiative as a result of the fighting men's heroic acts and sacrifices.

"As you see, the method followed in these operations has been to draw Saddam's army into destruction and annihilation, one brigade after another. Of course, that does not mean that the activities which have occurred have not realized a great victory for us. Rather, to the contrary, if we observe the contents of the news and analyses that the international media have conveyed and the actions and events which have occurred in the regional and international contexts, we will learn about the magnitude of what the Moslem fighting men have done on the fronts.

"Our strategy is to destroy the Iraqi army and armed forces and crush Saddam's combat capability together. The major part of this goal was realized in the Kerbala' Five operations, and they are still going on, full force."

ETTELA'AT's correspondent then presented the following question;

"With the execution of the Kerbala' Five operations, Saddam has made extensive replacements and changes in the context of the army and in his political staffs. What is your excellency's view regarding these military and political changes in the Iraqi regime?"

The prime minister said, "The Iraqi regime is basically moving its armed forces into combat under compulsion and one of the methods of Saddam's regime, to which he has become accustomed, is to direct blame at his commanders in every defeat he suffers, make a show of tactical withdrawals and direct the fire of his anger at some of his military commanders and political personnel. Subsequently, we receive news of assassinations and collective executions.

"Now this sort of thing has started to occur, that is, has started to tear at a number of his officers and his other cronies in the wake of the loathesome defeats which have been inflicted on his army in the Kerbala' Five operations. We believe that this situation will continue and that the Iraqi generals who have been captured have saved their lives."

In response to a question on whether new recommendations had been presented regarding peace or payment of compensation to the Islamic Republic of Iran during the Kerbala' Five operations, Eng Musavi said:

"Of course ongoing pressures exist regarding this issue. Whenever our forces start to invade and advance, this sort of thing is raised. However, talk about the departure of Saddam and the payment of compensations has today started circulating more than at any time in the past. While such talk in the past circulated in diplomatic circles only, today it is reflected openly and overtly in the international media and is discussed and is analyzed in them. However, we must not forget the basic platform of the forces of arrogance, which is to prevent our attainment of victory in any case. Reagan and

Shultz recently demonstrated that frankly and clearly when the latter went to China in order to prevent the sale of Chinese arms to us, even though we have not received arms from China.

"In another area, the White House has appointed an official whose task is to effect coordination with America's hirelings in the international framework and to prevent the sale of any type of arms to us. These positions show the nature of the road we are travelling and proceeding upon."

The newspaper's correspondent then said, "It appears that a new round in the war between Iraq and Iran has come into being, embodied in extensive diplomatic endeavor, that is, wherever the Iranian officials' feet tread, the cronies of the Iraqi regime take the initiative of going. What is your excellency's evaluation of this political effort?"

The prime minister replied by saying, "The more our fighting men advance in the war, the more our diplomatic credit increases, of course. In reality, the power of our foreign diplomacy arises from our fighting men's victories, since diplomatic activities in the world have no meaning without power and in isolation from it. If the major powers' diplomacy is effective today, that arises from their military and economic power.

"Therefore, our political influence derives its strength from the power of our people. With respect to the war, this power is derived from their resistance, perseverance and victories. Of course, the Iraqi regime must make movements in the face of our foreign policy throughout the world. In another area, the method of action the foreign forces always rely on is to play on two strings. Sometimes they meet Iran and sometimes they take the initiative of meeting the Iraqis and appearing as the father giving advice. However, we act from a position of strength and power."

In the course of the interview, ETTELA'AT's correspondent asked a question, stating, "For some time it has been repeatedly said that the countries of the region and international circles have agreed to the departure and elimination of Saddam. How do you explain that?"

Eng Musavi said, "There is a difference between agreeing and realizing that Saddam must go, there is no avoiding it.

"I do not believe that they have agreed to Saddam's departure; rather they have reached the conclusion that Saddam is being eliminated because of the resistance and firmness of the Moslem fighting men. More clearly, I can say that the world forces will extend Saddam the hand of help and aid until the last moment, if there is even a 50 percent chance of his survival, and it must not [sic] be absent from our mind that the aid will be cut off from Saddam if the situation changes somewhat. No, the situation is not like that.

"Yesterday I heard that European banks have approved the rescheduling of the debts Saddam owes in Europe, and if that indicates anything it indicates the hopes of Saddam's protectors for his survival. However, this hope has become slim, and this has prompted argument over the fall of Saddam, because it is

becoming more serious than before. They are seeking a way which will prevent the collapse and destruction of everything and will avoid more of the losses these countries will be subjected to from Saddam's fall. For this reason, various transactions are taking place, part of which are characterized by flexibility and leniency, and they are now reflected through the world media and also projected in a clearer, more serious manner in policies on the sidelines in these countries. These are that if it is decreed that Saddam should leave, it would be better that that not occur in conjunction with the military victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran; rather, it should take place in the form of a coup or the intervention of other forces. However, whatever the form of Saddam's departure might be, victory will be the destiny of the Islamic Republic. Such talk is now being raised, although what you see in the media and what leads that to be reflected in your question may be attributed to a stronger base than diplomatic movements in the international organizations and various countries, and also in our discussions with them. It is no longer strange that the politicians of other countries should ask, 'What is your view on the future of Iraq and its government, if Saddam were to leave?' These statements have become ongoing and normal."

The correspondent then asked, "What will be the Islamic Republic of Iran's position if a coup takes place in Iraq and Saddam falls?" The prime minister replied by saying, "We have declared clear policies and have said that it is the Iraqi people who must choose their government and this government must be the object of their approval and satisfaction. This is our general policy. With respect to the war, we have presented clear conditions. The issue of compensation or the dismissal of Saddam and the prosecution of the aggressor constitute a part of these conditions, which all show our positions regarding Iraq."

"The point I can raise here is that security and peace in the area must become established following the fall of Saddam's regime, that a government be established which is compatible with the views and demands of the Iraqi people and that the countries of the region, in cooperation with one another, strive for construction, independence, elimination of the effects of the policy of the major powers in the region and assumption of the reins of the security of the region themselves."

After that the correspondent of ETTELA'AT newspaper's economic department posed the following question:

"The government, following the drop in the oil price, declared that the country's economy has become subjected to new circumstances, and it reviewed a new policy for these circumstances. Your excellency and the ministers have declared the broad outlines of that."

"This policy is founded on five basic focal points, with priority given to the war, stabilization of the prices of main commodities, the halting of inflation, the provision of job opportunities and other basic matters, since it has been decided that the details of these focal points and the executive program for them will be declared later. Now, after a number of months have elapsed since the declaration of this policy, the details of this program have not yet been announced."

"How does your excellency evaluate the government's activities during this period? What are the details of this program?"

Eng Musavi said, "This declared policy had outlines which from the beginning imparted their effect on the government's programs which I will refer to. These programs were then organized bit by bit through the unremitting work of our brother officials, and they were put into general application in the executive agencies, to the point where some of them were carried out before being submitted to the economic council for everyone's agreement to them; however, the reason for the delay in the other sections is that the economic council had to give agreement to them officially. Now, the agricultural sector's executive projects and programs have been approved by the economic council, and I believe that they are ready for presentation. I can assert that the effects of these programs have been very great and I believe that the country's hard currency expenditures this year are to some extent on a par with the expenditures of 1973, before the increase in oil revenues as a result of the war between Egypt and Syria and Israel, which was accompanied by a leap in oil prices, in view of the rise in the population at the present time, since there were 30 million people that year, and also taking into account the war and many other things we are going through at present, through which our current situation should be compared with that period. We have been fortunate to have had power in launching the most violent attacks during the war last year, and the equipping of 500 companies is to be considered a great act which the government has performed for the war. The media anticipated that the matter would end with the drop of hard currency revenues and the problems resulting from that, with about 4 million unemployed and the like, but none of these expectations were realized at all, which proves the presence of an urgent, ongoing attempt in the context of the program which was mentioned above.

"Of course, when we raise this matter, it must not be absent from our minds that our country had arranged all the foundations of its economy before the revolution in a manner which in comparison required between \$35 and 36 billion in expenditures for the normal administration of its affairs and above and beyond that this country held a revolution and is also waging war and suddenly has one-sixth of these revenues in hard currency and seeks to administer its activities. Therefore, it is natural that we should witness the people's sufferings and living problems, but we would like to say that these sufferings and problems are signs of self-improvement. Had these difficulties and problems emerged in a regime which was not independent, they would have led to the fragmentation and disruption of all organization in that society, and severe crises and major difficulties would have followed them. However, these shortcomings and difficulties, in a country based on the foundation of divine belief, waging a bitter struggle, will lead to new methods of a solution and in reality are a sign of the sufferings of a sick person who is passing through the cycles of convalescence and feels that these pressures and pains are a prelude to his total improvement and his recovery to a complete cure.

"My conclusion is one arising from optimism, since no matter what the nature of the job might be, it compels me to be more optimistic and I am very optimistic. The signs in our economy also inspire hope and optimism."

IRAN

EMIGRES CAUGHT WITH FAKE PASSPORTS IN THAILAND

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 17 Jan 87 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Fake Passports, Visas Discovered"]

[Text] Five Iranians who had entered the country illegally were caught. Three were hiding at the Thai Krut Building in the Pathumwan area. The other two were in Songkhla. Officials found Iranian and Turkish passports, bogus rubber stamps and metal seals, and several other items. During interrogation by immigration officials, the suspects confessed that they wanted to go to a third country. They said that they had had to use fake Turkish passports because third countries refused to admit Iranians into the country. They said that each of the fake passports cost 150,000 baht.

Police Maj Gen Wanit Kunlana, the commander of the Immigration Division, learned that four or five Iranian men had entered the country illegally and were staying at the Krut Thai Mansion located at 931/1 Rama 1 Road, Bangkok Metropolitan. The Iranians were trying to flee to a third country using Turkish passports, but none of these men was Turkish. Thus, he ordered Police Col Sunthon Minatori, the deputy commander of the Immigration Division, to arrest the men.

At 0700 hours on 15 January, Police Lt Col Montri Kosiyasathit, an insepctor at Section 1, Police Precinct 4, Immigration Division, ordered Police Cpt Phaisan Pin-on and his men to search the Krut Thai Mansion. They searched Room 706 on the seventh floor and found three foreigners. They were identified as Mr Ebrahim Dara Feyran, age 26, Mr Fahat Sayaranpu, age 26, and Mr Ali Reza Vadahi, age 26. Inside the room, the officials found two rubber stamps used by immigration officials to stamp the passports of people entering the country, one rubber stamp used by immigration officials to stamp the passports of people leaving the country, one metal entry seal, two rubber seals to stamp the date in English, two metal seals in English, regulations on requesting a Canadian visa, blue and red ink, ink correction fluid, eight Iranian passports, and four Turkish passports. One of the Iranian passports had both entry and exit stamps, and the code number was the same as that of one of the rubber stamps seized as evidence. Thus, it is thought that the suspects used the stamps to enter fake stamps into the passports. As for the Turkish passports, the pictures in all four of the passports had been removed, making it impossible to determine to whom the passports belonged.

During the interrogation, all three men confessed that they had entered Thailand from Iran via Turkey. They had obtained the Turkish passports in Istanbul. After obtaining these passports, they changed the photographs, inserting the photographs of their Iranian customers in the Turkish passports. The suspects said that they charged \$6,000 (approximately 150,000 baht) to alter a passport. As for the eight Iranian passports that were seized, it was learned that they belonged to Iranian customers who had asked the suspects to make a forged passport for them. The immigration police filed the following charges against the three suspects:

1. Mr Ebrahim Dara Feyran was charged with entering and residing in the country illegally and conspiring to forge official stamps of government officials.

2. Mr Fahat Savaranpu and Mr Ali Reza Vadahi were charged with conspiring to forge official stamps of government officials.

Besides this, on 30 December 1986, immigration police in Songkhla Province arrested two more Iranians identified as Mr Anatolia Sarinchan, age 31, and Mr Ebrahim Abek Sinan, age 23. Both were carrying passports issued in Istanbul, Turkey. They were charged with conspiring to forge official documents and using forged documents (entry stamps of immigration officials at the Bangkok Airport). This occurred at the commercial airport in Khon Hoi Khong Subidstrict, Hat Yai District, Songkhla Province.

It is worth noting that the suspects forged the stamps of immigration officials themselves. They imitated the stamps used by officials to stamp passports. This was evident from the Iranian passports seized. Besides this, the visas appearing in the seized Iranian passports were supposedly issued by the Thai consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. It is believed that these are fake visas.

11943

CSO: 4207/157

BRIEFS

NEW MAGAZINE--Kabul, March 11, BAKHTAR--The first edition of "Voice of Peace" information magazine of the extra-ordinary Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation of the DRA was released today. The magazine, which carries articles in Pashto and Dari languages on peace, national reconciliation and its gains will be published every fortnight. The first edition of the magazine contains the speeches of Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, on national reconciliation, topics on the importance of peace on the man's life, national reconciliation from the view points of the world political figures and foreign journalists, reflections of the policy of national reconciliation in the world mass media, facts, figures and articles relating to the implementation of this policy. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 12 Mar 87 LD]

/9716

CSO: 4600/178

GOVERNMENT ADVISED TO STAND FIRM ON NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 2 Mar 87 p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. Aid and Our National Interests"]

[Text] The United States Congress has started discussing the \$4 billion aid to Pakistan. The relationship between Pakistan and the United States, except for a brief period of lull, has been very cordial and warm. Pakistan has on its part always tried to be friendly to the United States even though It had to pay a high price for this friendship. Pakistan's first prime minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, visited the United States in the 50's when Pakistan was trying to get itself accepted by other countries. Liaquat Ali Khan gave direction to our foreign policy and ignored the displeasure expressed by the Soviet Union. The Soviet leadership is complaining about it even today. Later, after signing several treaty pacts and agreements, Pakistan became an ally of the United States. The United States had also promised to help Pakistan if it was attacked by another country according to the 1959 agreement. This friendship, however did not help us in 1965 and 1971 when India took advantage of its 20-year friendship with the Soviets and took away half of our country. Our friend, the United States, just gave us condolences. During the 70's our relations with the United States were cool as the result of the 1971 incident [loss of East Pakistan] and a need to establish a nonaligned policy. Pakistan backed out of all the treaties and become a nonaligned nation. In 1979, when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, the United States once again extended a friendly hand and showed interest in Pakistan. We accepted this hand willingly and established all old relationships. Incidentally, Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan issue was supported by all nonaligned nations and very close to the U.S. stand. We were accused of joining the American bloc even though our policies were still nonaligned. We accepted this accusation as a friend would. The U.S. attitude, however, has been unfathomable to us. It does understand the regional pressures on Pakistan and its internal problems and gave us military and economic aid because of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Pakistan, still had to assure the United States that it is not making an atomic bomb and that its atomic program is designed for peaceful uses. As an independent country we have the right to acquire atomic technology and strengthen our defense by traditional or untraditional methods. The United States repeatedly made such difficult demands on us that it was virtually impossible to meet them. There are problems on Pakistan's northwestern and eastern borders, Afghan planes violate our air space and kill innocent

Pakistani citizens, and India has indicated its ambitions by increasing its defense budget by 30 billion rupees the United States is demanding that we cancel our atomic program and unilaterally agree for inspection of our atomic plants. Mr Deane Hinton, the U.S. ambassador, has threatened that the U.S. military and economic aid may stop if we do not cancel our atomic program. President Reagan, Vice President Bush, and Secretary of State Schultz have declared Pakistan the cornerstone of American foreign policy and claim that the United States is very interested in Pakistan's security. They want to give it modern planes and quality equipment. At the same time they have tried their best to make sure that our atomic technology does not get off the ground. Everyone knows that Israel has manufactured atomic bombs, but the United States did not object to that. This shows an obvious conflict in the U.S. policy. This situation requires serious consideration by our government. Even though the serious situation on our eastern borders has eased some and there have been talks between various officials of Indian and Pakistani governments, we should worry because India's prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, has proposed a defense budget of 125 billion rupees in the Indian Parliament the other day. This reflects an addition of 30 billion rupees over the last year's defense budget. Pakistan is the only military rival of India in South Asia and it has always hindered India's expansionist designs. We can easily conclude the reason for these military buildups. The Soviet Union does not like Pakistan's stand on Afghanistan issue and is always looking for an opportunity to "put Pakistan in its place." Meanwhile, the discussion in the United States Congress is about Pakistan having accumulated all the necessary ingredients for making atom bombs. In a situation like that we have but one choice: We should not demonstrate our timidity and consider acquiring atomic technology our right. We must make both superpowers to accept us because of our geographical location. We should make sure that no one tries to blackmail us. Pakistan's gifted scientist, Abdul Qadir Khan, had expressed the nation's feelings in his interview to an India journalist, but at a time when the U.S. Congress is discussing military and economic aid to us we should be careful in making claims about major achievements in newspapers. We should not talk about milestones that we have not yet achieved, or we would be forced to apologize later when we are cornered. We must focus all our energy in development of atomic technology so we can match India in this field. The United States had to humor Iran. Similarly, because of our geographical location, we can also force it to continue military and economic aid and support our atomic program. South Africa and Israel are still getting U.S. aid even though they have the ability to make atom bombs. Why should we be the one to be discriminated against? If we demonstrate good strategy and play our cards right, there is no reason why we cannot succeed in getting economic aid without kneeling or losing our prestige. However, the success of our foreign diplomacy depends on our internal unity and administration. We must involve the public in important national decisions.

7997

CSO: 4656/60

PAKISTAN

AMANULLAH KHAN ASKS COUNTRY'S SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT KASHMIR

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT (Supplement) in Urdu 6 Mar 87 p 6, 20

[Interview with Amanullah Khan, chief of Jamu Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF], by Tariq Ismael Sagar; date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Mr Amanullah, your position in the history of Kashmir's struggle for independence has always been a paradox. Even people in Kashmir are questioning your role after you expressed your views about the independent status of Jammu and Kashmir. However, before we discuss your views about the independent status for Jammu and Kashmir, we would like to hear what you think of your recent expulsion from Britain.

Amanullah Khan: I have a simple and straightforward answer to your question. I founded an organization which is politically and militarily active against India. India did not want me to continue my struggle from England and had me expelled by blackmailing the British government. The British government was helpless because India is the largest customer of its ailing helicopter industry. India's backing off as a client will all but wipe out Britain's helicopter industry. India had asked the British to destroy the Liberation Front movement in London. I was accused of storing explosives in my house. It was alleged that I was making bombs for exporting to Kashmir and for killing Rajiv Gandhi during his trip to the United Kingdom. The court, however, "excused" me from both allegations. I was arrested by order of the Home Department only 3 minutes after the court let me go. I was kept in jail for 3 months and then expelled from the country on 15 Dec 1986.

Question: There are several members of your organization living there as are Sikh leaders working against India. Why did the British government expel you on India's insistence and left them alone?

Amanullah Khan: They are all British citizens and cannot be expelled from England. I got burned because I am not a British citizen.

Question: In your opinion, what is the best solution to the Kashmir problem?

Amanullah Khan: The best solution to the Kashmir problem is to unify the now-divided provinces of Jammu and Kashmir, add all the areas that were part of it on 14 August 1947, and make it an independent nation. I believe that this

solution will not only be welcome by the Kashmiris, but also be beneficial to India and Pakistan.

Question: Is not this solution contrary to the 1947 law which divided the subcontinent into two parts -- India and Pakistan?

Amanullah Khan: Complete independence of Kashmir is not contrary to the Indian Independence Act. This law asking for various provinces to join either India or Pakistan based on majority population was implementable only in British India, or the provinces that were under the British rule at that time. This law did not cover independent provinces like Jammu and Kashmir. According to that law these provinces had the right to either join India or Pakistan or remain autonomous.

Question: Have the leaders of governments of India and Pakistan ever agreed to full independence of Kashmir? did they ever make any promise in this regard?

Amanullah Khan: Yes, they sure did! Before this subcontinent became independent, leaders of both countries had made distinct announcements promising independence to Jammu and Kashmir. Quaid-e Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan and president of All India Muslim League, had clarified Muslim League's stand on this issue in a detailed policy statement on 17 June 1947. He had said that according to the Indian Independence Act semi-independent provinces in the subcontinent had the choice to either join the Indian or Pakistani constitutional assemblies or declare autonomy. He met a deputation of Kashmiri leaders on 10 July 1947 and referring to Jammu and Kashmir reaffirmed his 17 June statement and said that Jammu and Kashmir could declare independent status if they so desire. He had added that Pakistan would support any mutually beneficial agreement with Jammu and Kashmir should they decided to become independent. These statements of Pakistan's founder were published prominently in most newspapers especially the PAKISTAN TIMES. This agreement between Pakistan and the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir was equal to an agreement between two independent countries. Pakistan did not object when Jammu and Kashmir's freedom fighters established a revolutionary government on 4 October 1947. The announcement of this government was made from Rawalpindi, an important city of Pakistan. This announcement was carried by international as well as Pakistani news media. A new government was organized on 24 October with the support of the Pakistani government. This new government did not countermand the statement made by the 14 October's revolutionary government. After this, even though the Pakistani government officially supported Kashmir's annexation to either India or Pakistan, some of its leaders including Pakistan's representatives in the United Nations continued to give statements favoring an independent Kashmir.

While answering a question in a press conference in New York in July 1961, Ayub Khan, former president of Pakistan, expressed his support of Kashmiris demanding a separate independent country.

As for India, it has made dozens of statements at national and international levels acknowledging support for full independence of Kashmir. I will give only examples.

1. India's ambassador to the United Nations declared in a speech addressing the Security Council on 15 January 1948 that, "we accept this demand of Kashmiris that they can decide to join Pakistan, India, or become an independent nation and request membership to the United Nations as soon as the situation is normal there." This ambassador repeated this statement again in the Security Council on 23 February 1948.

2. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, India's prime minister, while discussing the Kashmir problem with the All India Congress Committee on 9 July 1951 said, "It is a mistake to consider Kashmir as a gift to India or Pakistan. It appears that people keep forgetting that Kashmir is neither for sale nor is it a commodity that can be traded. It is a separate and distinct entity. Only Kashmiris have the right to decide on the future of Kashmir." Pandit Nehru had declared the establishment of a constitutional assembly and a constitution (which called for Kashmir's own president, prime minister, own national flag, own national language, and its own laws) as a first step toward complete autonomy. In addition, a United Nations' resolution by its commission on the Kashmir problem had given the right to Kashmiris to vote on the future of their province. India and Pakistan had signed an agreement regarding this resolution. This right to vote did not limit Kashmiris to join India or Pakistan. They were also given the choice to become an independent nation. India and Pakistan had accepted an independent Kashmir by signing this resolution.

The foregoing facts clearly indicate that at various occasions India and Pakistan had accepted Kashmir's independence on principle.

Question: Is not the idea of an independent Kashmir contrary to the two-nation theory on which the subcontinent was divided?

Amanullah Khan: No, it is not. The two-nation theory is applicable only to the British India. Were the semi-independent provinces covered under this theory then Pakistan would have neither accepted annexation of the Hindu-majority province of Juna Garh nor would it have supported the full independence of the Muslim-majority province of Hyderabad (Deccan). Under the two-nation theory, both of these provinces would have become part of India automatically. Had the two-nation theory covered independent provinces, the president of the Muslim League would have never talked about Jammu and Kashmir's independence. Pakistan would have not agreed for the independent vote in Kashmir. No man or country likes to include others in its territory.

Question: Kashmir is part of this subcontinent. Should it not join Pakistan instead of becoming an independent nation?

Amanullah Khan: The logic of Kashmir and Jammu being a part of this subcontinent is historically incorrect. Kashmir has not been under the rulers of this subcontinent even for a quarter of its long history. It was independent for the rest of the time. It was ruled by 22 dynasties before the Muslims took over. Of these, 18 dynasties were indigenous and ruled it as an independent nation. Kashmir was an independent nation for 240 years of the 400 years when Muslims ruled it.

If Kashmir is required to join India or Pakistan just because it is in this subcontinent, then the question of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka being independent nations does not arise. They all should be a part of India. We could go even further and say that India and all these countries should remain under British rule. All these countries, after all have been ruled by the British for a long time! Therefore, the logic that Kashmir should be a part of India or Pakistan carries no weight.

Question: You are encouraging separatist movements in India and Pakistan by demanding a separate country made up of Kashmir and Jammu. This could result in even further divisions of these two countries. Is your demand not anti-India and anti-Pakistan?

Amanullah Khan: Kashmir's independence movement is very different from other independence movements in the subcontinent. The Kashmir problem is an international issue and is still a part of the United Nations' agenda. Our right for autonomy was not only accepted by India and Pakistan, but also by the international brotherhood in the United Nations. None of the regional movements in India and Pakistan is international in nature. Additionally our movement does not call for separation because legally Kashmir is not a part of India or Pakistan. Even the United Nations has accepted the constitutional status of Kashmir. The maps published by the United Nations show Kashmir as a separate country from India and Pakistan. Since no country owns these two provinces, our independence movement cannot be called a separatist movement. India and Pakistan should accept the valid demands of the separatists if they want to stop these movements. These movements will be successful whether Kashmir becomes independent or not if the valid demands of these people are not accepted. East Pakistan separated itself from Pakistan in similar situation. If valid demands are accepted then these movements will die whether Kashmir is independent or not. Therefore, the allegation that the demand for an independent Kashmir is anti-India or anti-Pakistan is baseless.

Question: Pakistan never really stopped supporting Kashmir's independence on the diplomatic level. Recently, Prime Minister Junejo during his visit to Kashmir reaffirmed Pakistan's support for an independent Kashmir. Does not your allegation that Pakistan is not serious about Kashmir's independence appear baseless in the light of this?

Amanullah Khan: I was present in the United Nations when Pakistan raised the issue of Kashmir in 1985. Pakistan talked about the Simla Pact, but Kashmir's independence according to this pact is a pipe dream. The Simla Pact is worse than the 1946 Amritsar Pact according to which the British had sold Kashmir to the Dogra king. According to this pact India and Pakistan will jointly decide on the status of Kashmir. This pact did not recognize the rights of the people living in Kashmir and had included provisions that would have enabled India and Pakistan to suppress any movement. This would have resulted in deterioration of India-Pakistan relations. It is obvious that Pakistan had tied our hands according to this pact and then India went ahead to annex Siachin right after they sign this pact.

Later, the senior fire line was changed to the line of control according to the Simla Pact. You know that the senior fire line is a temporary line when

war stops, while the line of control is permanent in nature. Thus, the Simla Pact all but closed this issue. It simply told all parties to stay where they were.

You have noticed that they are constructing the Ideal Islam Dam on the Chenab. You cannot stop it because India is ruling the occupied Kashmir. Now the Chenab will dry up just like the Ravi. According to the latest information, they are planning to dam the Jhelum now. They cannot change the flow of the Jhelum, but they can construct a dam large enough to stop the flow of water for at least 1 month.

Question: What role can Pakistan play in freeing the occupied Kashmir in the light of the international situation in general and Pakistan in particular?

Amanullah Khan: We want Pakistan to play the same role as was played by China and the Soviet Union in Vietnam. Vietnam was very weak compared to the United States as are we when compared to India. Still, Vietnam forced the United States to leave with the help of its friends. China was not hurt because it did not make any open demands on Vietnam. We do not want to be a burden on Pakistan as its own unity is challenged because of some policy mistakes it has made. Pakistan should not help us alone. It should get another nation to help us and give us moral support. Pakistan itself should not get involved in armed combat.

7997

CSO: 4656/59

PAKISTAN

PAPER URGES CARE IN SELECTION, TRAINING OF DIPLOMATS

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 2 Mar 87 p 10

[Editorial: "Responsibilities of Pakistani Diplomats"]

[Text] According to news reports all Pakistani ambassadors are being summoned to attend a conference to inform them about the latest developments in the Afghanistan crisis. The annoyance of our opponents over the Afghanistan problem, peaceful use of atomic energy, and political stability in our country is known to all and Pakistan has to face internal and external pressure on these issues. Pakistan's declared enemies are busy against us over the Afghanistan and atomic program issues. At the same time opponents of our political and economic policies who claim to be our allies also look at us with suspicion and do not miss an opportunity to portray us as a weak nation to the international brotherhood. In this context our diplomats, especially those stationed in important countries, have heavy responsibilities to represent Pakistan's viewpoint effectively and play an important role in elevating our country's image. However, we learn from Pakistanis living abroad that our diplomats use their tour of duty to enjoy themselves in their fancy homes. They have no interest in enhancing Pakistan's image or in the problems of Pakistanis living in that country. This situation has worsened since the practice of awarding diplomatic positions to retired generals and bureaucrats was started. This is why propaganda of our enemies is heard better than the statements issued by our embassies. The complaint that Pakistani diplomats treat Pakistanis living in those countries with disrespect is also very common. They do not try to meet them or listen to their complaints. In our opinion, it would be better to appoint intelligent politicians as diplomats in countries where it is important to represent our country's position on various issues. Diplomats also should be trained in various ideological issues and effective public relations so that they can discharge their duties more effectively. We hope that these concerns will be discussed in the diplomats' conference.

7997

CSO: 5656/61

AFGHAN AGENTS' HAND SEEN IN PESHAWAR UNREST

[Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 22 Feb 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Showing Contempt by Bomb Blasts"]

[Text] Last Thursday's bomb blast and the resulting loss of life and property in Peshawar's suburb Garhi Qamar Din was the worst incident of its kind in the history of our province. Worse still was the fighting between the local residents and Afghan muhajirs as the result of this incident. Some more persons were killed and the rift caused among people will never be filled. The Afghan refugees have nothing to do with these bomb blasts. Even a person with very little common sense will not dare to destroy a country that gave it asylum. Afghan refugees know well that if they tried to harm Pakistan, they will lose their best shelter and will be forced to become homeless once again. We cannot believe that these proud Afghans can be so thankless as to cut the tree that gave them the shelter. Afghans have a very bright history in this area; they have always returned courtesy with courtesy. Similarly, Pathans also have the tradition of protecting even an enemy who asks for a shelter with their lives. These warlike Pathans of Sarhad have not forgotten this tradition yet. Hundreds of thousand of Afghan refugees are the guests of these Pathans for several years and the Pathan are bearing this burden with a smile. The Afghan government and its bosses just cannot bear the idea that their victims are living peacefully. Thus, the agents of Kabul government has been trying to find a way to make the local residents of Peshawar and Afghan refugees to start fighting with each other so that these helpless Muslim can suffer once more. The Kabul government wants to get the whole Pakistan against the refugees by blasting bombs. It wants to let Pakistan know that unless it recognize their government and accept the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan, there will be permanent problem keeping peace in Pakistan and Pakistan's unity as a nation will be at stake.

There were always some traitors who called themselves Pakistanis and talked against Afghan refugees. These bomb blasts will give these agents another opportunity to poison the minds of naive people. Afghan refugees were also condemned for the barbarous acts in Aurangi Town during the "Operation Suhrab Goth." This had resulted in riots between Pathans and Muhajirs. After the Garhi Qamar Din bomb blast on Thursday and the riots that followed it on Friday, we are worried that Karachi's history will be repeated here. According to some sources, that bomb was planted to blowup the offices of Jamaat-e

Islami Afghanistan, an organization of Afghan refugees. It is very difficult to conceive that Afghan refugees have become their own enemies. The poor refugees are suffering badly because they had not even recovered from the shock of the bomb blast, they were fired upon right in their office by ANP members and people working on their insistence. A procession taken out in protest burned a cabin built for Afghan refugees, threw rocks at shops owned by the refugee, and threatened whoever looked like an Afghan refugee. All this continued until late in the evening. There was an armed confrontation between Afghans and followers of Kokikhel resulting in the death of three persons. There was an exchange of fire between Afghan refugees and the local residents in Garhi Qamar Din. Three people were wounded and the angry mob burned several cabins. There was total strike in Peshawar City and Cantonment on Friday and Peshawar-Kohat road was blockaded. The local residents threatened to close all local traffic if refugees from Garhi Qamar and surrounding areas were not moved. Purchase of weapons increased remarkably as a result of this incident. There is a sharp breach between the refugees and the local residents. The enemies of both groups can take advantage of this situation any time.

At the time of Operation Cleanup against drug dealers in Karachi, Mr Abdul Wali Khan, who has befriended the Soviet puppet government of Afghanistan, and his wife tried to anger Pathans by telling them that they were being persecuted against. This tirade resulted in violent riots. Is it not strange that the very next day after the bomb blast in Garhi Qamar Din, Wali Khan arrived there to announce that a civil war about which he had been warning had started! He further added that "if Pakistan's government sends bombs to Afghanistan, it will get bombs and not nosegays in return." We are not surprised at his mentality anymore. Let us forget what Pakistan is sending to Afghanistan. Wali Khan admitted that the bomb which killed his fellow countrymen was a gift from his friendly Kabul government. Wali Khan was perhaps proud of the fact that his truncoat followers were killing innocent Pathan, including newborn babies, very efficiently. As a Pakistani and a Pathan, his sympathy should have been with the murdered people and not with the murderers. He is always trying to take sides with the killers and could not even instruct the Kabul government or the Soviet agents not to kill innocent children. Despite this attitude he still claims to be the leader of Pathans and instead of finding ways to stop bloodshed, he was trying to make it worse by instigating the local population. He is even proud to announce that a civil war as per his prophesy had begun! He wants to help the oppressed Afghans! It is a pity that Wali Khan has learned all this from those Soviet puppets that have been taking liberties with our countrymen. We should also remember the "announcement" made by the Afghan consul general stationed in Afghanistan. He had said at the time of Karachi riots that that was just the beginning. The real thing, according to that announcement, was to start later. At this time Afghan refugees and their friends have to be very careful. We must be careful about the negative propaganda and continue making the sacrifices we are used to make. Afghan refugee organizations should also identify Afghan agents that have joined their ranks. At the same time our government must deal with these instigators strictly to discourage them from making more trouble.

7997

CSO: 4656/58

SIND CHIEF MINISTER'S RESIGNATION DEMANDED

Islamabad HURMAT in Urdu 13-22 Feb 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Serious Accusations Made by General Azam Khan"]

[Text] After the restlessness caused in Karachi by "Operation Cleanup" in Suhrab Goth, the only person who is respected everywhere is the former governor of the erstwhile East Pakistan, Retired General Azam Khan. The General is addressing groups of people in various parts of the city and is advising the residents to remain calm and be alert to the activities of the enemy. This respect for General Azam Khan shows that if a person has either served the people selflessly or has achieved a memorable goal, people roll the red carpet for him.

General Azam Khan, while addressing a large group in Karachi's Gulshan Iqbal area, complained that "Operation Cleanup" was carried out to protect drug dealers and hurt the common people. He also said that after the Suhrab Goth fiasco he had met thousands of Pathans and Muhajirs. Their statements indicate that they have no animosity toward each other. Instead, [it appears that] the government is making them fight for its own reasons. In our opinion, General Azam's accusation is very serious and it all but obliterates any respect for the Sind government.

This is not the first time that the Sind government was accused of such negligence. The Sind government in general and its chief minister, Ghaush Ali Shah, in particular have been a subject of criticism for a long time. The situation would be still serious if they were accused of inefficiency and inactivity. However, they have been accused of such crimes that a student of politics simply fails to comprehend how, a chief minister accused openly by people of such serious crimes, can remain in power?

Recently, an opposition leader accused the chief minister of financial misappropriations and selling or obtaining government property at drastically reduced rates. We are not in any position to comment on these financial misappropriations carried out by the chief minister, however, we would like to say that in the light of these and other accusations the chief minister should have offered himself for investigation by a neutral committee. He should announce that if these accusations against him prove correct, he would resign. But, when do such things happen in Pakistan?

At this point, we would like to inform Prime Minister Junejo that these accusations against the chief minister make the objectivity of his federal government suspect. People have begun to wonder and are forced to ask of each other why is the federal government being patient with this failure of a chief minister in Sind?

7997

CSO: 4656/57

NON-SINDHIS IN SIND: GOVERNOR OPPOSES BAN

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 87 p 8

[Article by Muhammad Asghar]

[Text]

KARACHI, March 9: The Sind Governor, Mr. Ashraf W. Tabani, has said that the demand for a ban on the entry and settlement of the non-Sindhis in Sind is unconstitutional and impracticable.

Talking to the visiting delegation of the Punjab journalists here this morning, the Governor said that the people could not be stopped from entering or settling in any part of their country. Such a practice was possible in a Communist country only, he said. He said that efforts had been made to prevent entry and settlement of the outsiders in Jakarta and Manila in the past but they could not succeed. The people could, however, be prevented from migrating to big cities by improving the quality of life in smaller towns and rural areas.

The Governor said that efforts were being made to reduce the migration pressure on Karachi by fast development of the housing facilities at Hyderabad in particular and development of the rural areas of Sind in general.

He said that the law and order situation in Sind was under control but not completely satisfactory so far. Karachi has remained peaceful for the past two weeks and was returning fast to normal. The police, however, continued operations against the dacoits in the interior.

He said that the Army had played a significant role in the operations against dacoits but its contingents had to be called off suddenly in view of the border situation. Highways had become

safer than in the past as a result of the operations against the dacoits, he said.

The Governor said that the inquiry commission constituted for a probe in recent Karachi riots had submitted its report and the steps were being taken for the implementation of its recommendations. A new district was being created and the proposal for giving metropolitan status to the city was under active consideration.

He said that the entire country was perturbed over the recent Karachi incidents. He had been receiving letters from all over the country, congratulating him on restoration of normalcy but everyone writing such a letter had also expressed concern over what had happened in this part of the country.

He said that the Government wanted to know the reasons behind the recent Karachi carnage. Sohrab Goth had developed as a Bara Market in the beginning but marketing of narcotics and arms had started at the place later on.

He said that the Government had planned to clean up Sohrab Goth when Karachi Municipal Corporation started removal of encroachments in 1983. The areas in the vicinity of Sohrab Goth were cleared but this part escaped clean-up in view of eruption of Shia-Sunni riots.

The Governor said that the Sind Government started clean-up operations in Sohrab Goth in December last but strangely enough its reaction occurred in

Orangi where the situation was ripe for ethnic riots. He said that the riots had been engineered only to divert the attention of the Government and to compel it to stop the operation against the drug pushers.

He said that the Prime Minister happened to visit Karachi during the days of the riots. Pressure was exerted for discontinuation of the operation against the drug traders. The Sind Chief Minister deserved credit for resisting all pressure and deciding to continue the operation.

He said that Karachi had presented a picture of ethnic harmony. The people hailing from all parts of the country had been living here for a long time and various ethnic groups had never clashed with each other. They had been exploited and involved in riots recently.

He said that the elements responsible for engineering the riots had been hauled up and investigations were in progress for identifying the forces behind the riots.

The Governor said that action had already been initiated against possession of illegal arms in the Punjab. The Sind Government would also take steps for

controlling the menace of unlawful arms and reducing the number of licensed arms. He said that a ban had already been imposed on new arms licenses.

He said that the Sohrab Goth operation had been initiated not only for saving the Pakistani youth from the curse of narcotics but also for checking the smuggling of the same to foreign countries.

He said steps were being taken for checking poppy cultivation in the north on the one hand and checking smuggling of narcotics on the other. He pointed out that 60 per cent of the world's drug traffic ended up in the United States.

INDUSTRY: The Governor said that the Sind Government was making concerted efforts for encouraging the setting up of industries away from Karachi. Infra-structure facilities were being developed for new industries in many places. Facilities had already been developed at Sukkur, Kotri, Hyderabad, Tando Adam etc. Shikarpur, Nawabshah and other small towns were also expected to have facilities for new industries. He, however, made it clear that the entrepreneurs could not be prevented from setting up new industries at Karachi by force.

/13046

CSO: 4600/179

SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES UNDER GUISE OF MOVEMENT FOR RIGHTS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 21 Feb 87 p 3

[Article by Mumtaz Ali Quraishi: "Organized Plans to Cause Tension in Sind"]

[Text] Separatist elements are very active in Sind under the guise of complaints for deprivation and demands for rights. Qadianis and a small section of affluent and influential Sindhis who have been exploiting Sindhi farmers for the last 40 years are leading this planned movement. The latter group has the support of some members of Sind's government and, therefore, is respected. This group also works with dacoits and uses them for kidnapping people and committing robberies which in turn are used for blackmailing the federal government and keeping the province government under control. That is the main reason why the Sind government has failed in curbing crimes in the province. According to the police these influential people play an important role in planning the activities of the dacoits. Persons kidnapped by dacoits are recovered through these important people! The police, however, is unable to take any action against this elite group. The separatist groups is growing very fast in both urban and rural areas of Sind. This group is also supported by ranking government officials. Recently, veteran leaders of the Muhajir Quomi Movement (MQM) noticed the presence of youth members of Jiye Sind and wondered if they were falling into a trap while trying to get rights for Muhajirs. Some unsavory elements want to complicate the situation in Sind so that instigators get the full opportunity to spread friction and unrest. They have already caused several factional riots to destroy the unity in the province. There seems to be some connection between the happenings in Sind during the last 3 months and the heavy concentration of Indian army in Rajasthan sector. Separatists in Sind could not succeed by sowing the seeds of hatred for the last 40 years. However, now they are using the government to achieve their goal. Student groups in universities, college, and schools are fighting among themselves all over the province. Many new student organizations are being established by the Qadianis in Karachi. Muhajirs are promised to get their rights and are made weak by encouraging them to fight among themselves. Punjabis and Pathans were the first victims of this movement, however, when this movement began to lose momentum, there were talks about the rights of Punjabis and Pathans. They supported the quota system to make things even worse. It has been learned that one influential leader of this movement has instructed his followers to oppose the quota system.

An organization of Sind separatists, "Saga" is equivalent to "Baga" the Bengali organization which worked to separate East Pakistan from Pakistan and weaken the federal government. This group has been organized in Sind along the same lines. This organization was banned by the government, however, some members of this organization hold very important positions in the government and are working behind the scenes. The government banned the organization, but did not do anything to stop its activities. The members of this organization played a very important role in the recent riots in Karachi. These separatist elements are being supported secretly at government level. We will give one example of this practice. Cases have been registered against Mumtaz Bhutto and Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, the two leaders of this organization. They are accused of making anti-national speeches. While these leaders are in jail the movement started to help the Muhajirs whose Islamic culture and patriotism are being attacked. Pakistan was established on a two-nation theory, but this movement is talking about a "fifth nation." The actions of this movement have resulted in the killing of thousands of people and loss of property worth millions of rupees. The leader of this movement was freed because he used violence [to scare the government]. Supporters of Sind Front are talking openly about starting violent activities so that their leaders are also set free!

All these make us surmise that the government wants more bloody incidents in Sind. When there were no violent acts, the government attacked the elected mayor and 99 councilmen of Karachi Municipal Corporation with clubs and tear gas, and threw them in jail. This action was taken to make the separatist movement in the province even stronger. Soon after this incident, a resolution banning entry of people from other provinces into Sind was passed in Sind's Assembly. Even the chief minister of the province supported this resolution. This is not insignificant a hidden hand was working behind the whole fiasco. It is distressing to note that the federal government did not take any action against this activity.

Prior to all this, organized efforts were made to make the situation in Sind critical. Firing on the supporters of the PPP at Mirpur Khas, Sanghra, and Nawabshah districts and killing some people in Abdul Islam Thaem's village were efforts to scare people and force them to join the separatist faction. These incidents would have also provided an excuse for the separatists to cry about oppression and invite India to interfere. Open demonstrations demanding breaking up Pakistan are held within Sind and are ignored by the government, but Karachi councilmen were subjected to barbarous attacks. All these appear to be part of this planned conspiracy to start fights among various factions in Sind Province. However, this conspiracy was unsuccessful due to the alertness and patriotism of the mayor of Karachi Municipal corporation and leaders of other political parties who led an exemplary peaceful strike in Karachi.

Perhaps they will stage another scene like this one because the action taken against the Municipal Corporation of Karachi has adversely affected Sind Muslim League. There is a strong possibility that municipal elections will not be held this year because should all political parties decide to take part in these elections, the very existence of the Muslim League might be in danger. In this situation, it is important for democratic forces and patriotic elements to unite and recognize the enemies of the country.

Separatists are dreaming about "Akhand [undivided] India." They had been given false promises. These elements have no respect for independence because they possess slave mentality. Their slogans of patriotism and getting rights are nothing but fraud. All they want is power regardless of its source. Our country came to existence because of the two-nation theory and the idea of preserving Islam on this subcontinent. Had there been a true Islamic government, no influential person or landlord would have dared to take advantage of the farmers. Our notorious bureaucracy would not have been able to deprive the poor of their basic rights. The federal government must take necessary steps to check on these groups in Sind who are trying to weaken it and throw it into Indian hands. It must take immediate action to establish peace and stability in Sind. Otherwise, the fire that has started in Sind will have far reaching effects.

7997

CSO: 4656/57

IMPORTANCE OF AUTONOMOUS MUNICIPAL BODIES DISCUSSED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 22 Feb 87 p 3

[Article by Abdul Karim Abid: "Problems For Sind Government"]

[Text] Who is responsible for the confrontation between the Sind government and Karachi corporation? In a commentary, the editor of NAWA-I-WAQT said that various opposing leaders' statements have muddled the whole affair so much that an objective outsider just is not able to conclude anything. One thing is sure: The Sind government should not further deteriorate the situation by suspending the Karachi corporation.

The NAWA-I-WAQT has also commented about interferences in municipal governments's affairs and pointed out to the root cause of all problems. According to NAWA-I-WAQT, municipal bodies are elected to solve local problems and are highly respected bodies all over the world. In our beloved country, however, these government bodies have been made all but powerless. They do not have enough money and resources. The NAWA-I-WAQT also said that the National Assembly, the provincial assemblies, and local governments should remain in separate spheres of operations. They should not make things murky by interfering with each other's affairs. NAWA-I-WAQT's advice is appropriate and Prime Minister Junejo should take steps to make sure that these three organizations do not step on each other's toes.

Our real problem at present is fair distribution of power and rights in our society. The lava of restlessness in our country is sizzling for an eruption because some persons in our country do not want to lose their power and are not willing to accept the authority of the Parliament. They want a parliament which gives them a long rope and even bow to their wishes.

The second problem is that the federal government and its bureaucracy wants to keep a strong hold on the provinces. They want the provincial governments to blindly obey them and never dare to defy them. True, Mr Junejo's specific administrative style has resulted in some loosening of the federal control and provincial governments are able to discuss some issues with the federal government on an equal basis. However, this has not resulted because of some changes in the administrative structure; this resulted from Mr Junejo's weakness in this area. The idea of weakening a strong federal government does not mean having a weak prime minister or an ineffective federal government. We need a government in which the power structure of the bureaucracy breaks up

The tyranny of the bureaucracy cannot be eliminated simply by replacing a strong but undemocratic federal government with strong but undemocratic provincial governments. We have to accept independence and recognize the rights of municipal agencies if we want to put an end to the tyranny of bureaucracy. We must elevate our municipal bodies to the level of their counterparts in other countries. That will be possible only if we give these bodies same rights as have the local councils and county governments in England and France. General administration, education, health administration, and collection of local taxes should be the responsibility of municipal corporations and committees. These rights are currently controlled by provincial governments and must be given to the elected municipal bodies. Municipal bodies should unite nationally and demand their constitutional rights from the provinces. They must confront the provinces or they will not succeed in this goal. Our democracy will be a fake democracy until this is achieved. There is no other alternative but to stop worshipping the "fake gods of federal and provincial governments" if we want to have a real democracy. The present system is based on the bureaucracy's authority. The foundation of a true democracy will be laid when municipal committees get their fair share in the power structure. All other regimes in the guise of democracy will give birth to a powerful dictator either at the federal level or at the provincial level.

Pakistan needs to get rid of these dictators and the bureaucracy that provides them support not only for a true democratic rule, but also for our national integrity and unity. Our country and the provinces are divided by various races, languages, and factions. All of these groups are becoming more and more sensitive to their cultural identification and economic interests. The rule of bureaucracy is making these groups feel more and more deprived and restless.

Pakistan cannot support a strong but undemocratic government either at the federal or provincial levels. The only way to satisfy various minority groups is by having them participate in municipal governments. The provincial governments should not have the right to destroy and force the municipal bodies to become dependent on them. It is our misfortune that we could not keep the limited rights and authority given by the British to these municipal bodies. We all but destroyed them and used appointed administrators year after year. Democracy demands that we give more and more rights and authority to our municipal governments. Instead, we revoked even those rights which the British had given them. In other words, the independence proved fatal to municipal governments. Parliaments and legislative assemblies continued to survive in one or other form, but municipal governments were locked into cabinets and drawers of clerks. As long as this situation is not rectified expecting to establish a democratic rule or even talking about it is self-delusive.

Autonomy of municipal bodies is especially important for big city corporations. Without this autonomy neither the city-dwellers can be happy nor the problems of the city can be solved. Karachi has been fighting to get that autonomy and the real cause of all its present problems is that this city is being run as a police state rather than by a democratic municipal corporation. The chief minister of the state is less of a political leader and more of a

head constable or police inspector. He expects the elected municipal councilmen to make good decisions by treating them the way a police inspector treats common people. In meeting with a deputation of municipal councilors he said that Karachi belongs to God's people and not to Jamaat-e Islami. He forgot the Jamaat-e Islami councilors were voted in by God's people and they are the real voice of the people. Instead of ignoring their existence, he should try to cooperate with them to convince them that he [the chief minister] is their ally and not an enemy or a rival and he does not want to destroy the combined force of Karachi's elected representatives. However, he is following exactly the opposite approach.

Mr Ghaush Ali Shah is a Sindhi and a champion of Sind's rights. However, if he really wants more rights for Sind and make a strong platform for Sind's benefits, he should not start this confrontation with the people living in Karachi. The ugly way he treated Karachi people and their representatives shows that 'e is doomed and God knows what other people and things will he get destroyed. The truth is that Ghaush Ali Shah's actions have made people suspect Mr Junejo being his ally. At the same time, people have begun to see the true colors of President Zia's "democracy." They have begun to feel that his democracy was only half-hearted and is going to die in Sind. Should it happen, the Ghaush Ali Shah will be remembered as the major criminal in the history of our country because his government brought another bad period for the country.

7997

CSO: 4656/58

MINISTER SAYS FINAL DECISION ON KALABAGH SOON

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES (COMMERCE supplement) in English 10 Mar 87 p II

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 9: Kazi Abdul Majid Abid, Minister Incharge for Water and Power, on Monday assured the National Assembly that the Cabinet Committee on Major Dams would meet shortly to take a final decision on Kalabagh Dam.

In his written answer, Kazi Abdul Majid Abid said that the reduction in the construction cost of the modified project would be worked out after the Cabinet Committee on Major Dams had taken the decision on it. The extent to which utility of the dam would be affected could only be determined after the decision of the Cabinet on Major Dams on the modified proposals was available, he added.

The Minister said detailed designs, contract documents and

tender drawings had been prepared for the original project which are now undergoing revision and refinements to conform to the modified proposals.

The projects planning report envisaged reservoir maximum retention elevation 925 feet above sea level and reservoir dead storage elevation (minimum draw-down level) of 825 feet with useable storage of 7.6 MAF. The modified proposals visualise reduction in the reservoir retention drawdown levels and modification in its operating procedures. The purpose is to optimise dam's economic benefits with no additional flood risks in the Kabul valley. The proposals are under consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Major Dams, he said.

/13046

CSO: 4600/179

HIGH INTEREST RATES SAID HURTING PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Mar 87 p 4

[Article by Shahid Kardar]

[Text]

The current and rising level of interest rates is fast becoming a critical factor in the level of costs in the productive sectors of the economy (and thereby our export competitiveness), and the ability of the Government to save enough from its revenue sources to fund the development effort. In other words, the level and the structure of interest rates is of direct relevance to the health of the economy. Part of the dilemma being posed by the decision to raise interest stems from the failure to realise that the rate of interest is an instrument which can both arrest the rise in the rate of inflation as well as stimulate the different sectors of the economy.

RESOURCE CRUNCH

Over the last few years the Government has found its resources severely constrained. Among the factors which have contributed to the present resource crunch the important ones are the government's inability to tax agricultural incomes and to raise taxes on other incomes, the relentless increase in expenditure on defence, and the rapidly accelerating debt burden, both external and internal. As a consequence of the lack of adequate resources the Government has had little option but to resort to borrowing from the market at increasingly high rates of interest to finance not only its

development but also its non-development expenditures. The reliance on borrowings has increased to such an extent that debt servicing is becoming the fastest growing component of the non-development expenditure.

The Government uses two methods of financing—direct and indirect—operations. Direct financing operates in the shape of the government directly seeking the savings of a section of the community. Indirect financing operates through financial institutions, insurance companies and provident funds acting as intermediaries. The loans floated by the Government are an example of indirect financing whereas small and household saving schemes serve as an example of direct financing.

The Government has over the last few years managed to raise a lot of funds through borrowings from the market and through its household saving schemes. The interest rates on government loans have generally been lower than rates applicable for saving schemes because a substantial proportion of the government's capital and development expenditure takes place on projects and schemes on which the rate of return on capital is extremely low, if not nil. However what is happening is that as the Government has had to rely for more and more funds from the high interest saving schemes it has also had to increase the interest rate on its loans, even when the lenders—the captive market—have been forced to invest in these loans.

By increasing internal borrowings there are obvious dangers in the shape of an escalating interest burden as the Government leads itself into an internal debt trap. For instance, the rising burden of debt servicing is worsening the budget

deficit from one year to the next — so much so that the Government will soon be out of rupees to finance the various development schemes. Again, take the case of resources required for creating infrastructural facilities — both physical and social, and for carrying out rural development. Such projects have long gestation periods and high capital-output ratios.

CAPTIVE MARKET

Therefore, the financing for these projects cannot be raised on commercial terms. As loans are normally disposed in the captive market the interest rates and concessions attached to small saving schemes cannot be allowed or granted to funds generated against government loans/bonds. Nevertheless, the government has had to, over the years, narrow the differential (in its dual pricing system) between the interest rates on its loans and those that on saving schemes and instruments, i.e., to prevent severe distortions in the structure of interest rates, it has had to periodically raise the interest rates on its loans.

As far as the industrial sector is concerned the higher interest rates are pushing up costs all round thereby on the one hand dampening the demand for investment funds and on the other hand damaging the price competitiveness of our exports. Although there is export financing at concessional rates, this lower price of capital satisfies the purpose only to a limited extent. Interest rates are pervasive and have a damaging impact on the overall cost structure; as prices of inputs brought from within the economy are influenced by the price being paid for capital. Not surprisingly, therefore, there are signs that we are having difficulty in competing in price terms in international markets. Thus the policy of high interest rates needs to be reviewed. Moreover, this re-examination has become all the more necessary because if the government's claim of a falling rate of inflation is valid then the rate of interest should also be lowered as is happening elsewhere in the world. A lower interest rate will also serve to boost the economy in an effective manner.

PRIMARY REASON

One of the primary reasons for

raising interest rates is the belief that higher rates and other incentives, like tax exemptions, encourage savings. But then it is not that widely realised that tax exemptions and high interest rates in fact only end up favouring the conversion of saving bank deposits into non-bank financial assets (Defence Saving Certificates, National Saving Certificates, Khas Deposit Certificates etc). As June draws near there is a mad rush to withdraw money from savings accounts to purchase the 'Certificates' that qualify as investment for income tax rebates and reliefs. Different policies for different saving schemes does not necessarily increase the total savings of the community; they only change the form in which they are held. Moreover a large chunk of the savings in the community are captive in nature. Hence, the belief that lower interest rates will drastically reduce the levels of savings is ill-placed.

Finally there is the issue concerning the adverse social consequences of higher interest rates. Savings are attracting interest at rates which offer a return higher than what can be earned from lawfully run industrial operations. Thus the present structure of interest rates, and the incentives attached to them favours the class of rentiers at the expense of the industrial and business sections of society and the population at large through the rise in costs. Rentier incomes are acquiring importance and economic strength.

INTEREST RATES

If these certificates offer a return of 15% then the money deposited has to be lent out at 16.5% to 17% which in turn means the borrower must have a return of at least 22% (considering that most enterprises are highly geared) to make it worth his while—to enable him to pay the interest and also make a profit in his business venture. Such a return is generally available from investments in quick-return luxury consumer products or from trading activities (and those too illegal in nature). Therefore, high interest rates are encouraging unproductive financing investment in manufacturing facilities for products like confectionery, cosmetics assembly manufacturing etc. i.e. those on which rates of return are high or in trading operations.

/13046

CSO: 4600/179

PAKISTAN

PROBLEMS RELATED TO RETURN OF OVERSEAS WORKERS DISCUSSED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 2 Mar 87 p 10

[Editorial: "Return of Overseas Technicians"]

[Text] According to a survey report, 31 per cent of Pakistanis working abroad will return home by 1990. This will result in a dramatic decrease in foreign exchange sent home by them. Due to the slow industrial growth and increasing unemployment in Pakistan our labor force began to go abroad in the 70's. This influenced Pakistan's economy. About 40 billion rupees of our national budget were from the money remitted by Pakistanis working overseas. Had we wanted we would have used this money to start various industries and put our country on its way to industrial development. Due to our habit of procrastination and laziness, we never implemented any plans in this area and all this money was spent in unproductive pursuits. The money sent by our overseas workers helped their families to lead prosperous lives and our country was filled with appliances made in Japan and the United States. All this resulted not only in unnecessary extravagance, but also used up so much electricity that we were forced to shed load. Now that most of the construction work in Arab countries is finished and many wealthy nations are facing problems because of the drop in oil prices, Pakistani skilled and unskilled workers have started to return home. This has not only ended free flow of foreign exchange but also is giving birth to many social and economic problems in our country. The returning workers must be provided jobs. This is a problem in itself. We must make plans to absorb these workers and also to ensure that the flow of foreign exchange continues. Otherwise, we may have to pay a heavy price. The government must make serious plans now to control this situation so that our country can benefit from the services of these skilled workers and these people who have rich experiences do not face economic and social problems.

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ACCUMULATION OF BLACK MONEY CRITICIZED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 13 Feb 87 p 9

[Editorial: "Billions of Rupees!"]

[Text] According to a report issued by the National Taxation Commission, there are over 180 billion rupees in black money in our country. This money is being invested in all kinds of businesses to make it legal. This report also revealed that about 36 ton of gold is smuggled into Pakistan annually. Smuggled gold worth 1 billion 400 million rupees is sold to help people launder their black money.

Black money is considered a curse for any country. In a developing country, black money to this proportion is equal to a fatal sickness. This black money accumulates from bribes, black market, and tax evasion. Its presence in any country signifies internal maladministration and lack of monitoring. Our beloved country is a victim of defective internal administration for 40 years. According to a former finance minister, our bureaucracy "earns" billions of rupees every year through graft. Businessmen hide billions in payable taxes. The desire to become a millionaire overnight by smuggling and black marketing activities is becoming very popular. Our government has become helpless and cannot control all these illegal activities. Government agencies responsible for curbing such illegal acts are actually involved in them. Thus, everyone in our country is busy in this loot fearlessly; no one is afraid of anyone including God.

All this is happening in a country which was established in the name of Islam and the whole purpose was to establish a government based on Islamic principles. The government has been aware of these 200 billion rupees in black money that the Taxation Commission has identified. Dr Mehbubul Haq did take some steps in making this black money "white" during his ministership, however, his efforts were futile. Accumulation of black money has still been increasing. The main reason for this increase in black money is that while efforts to make it "white" are made, nothing is done to eradicate the reasons behind the black money. Our income tax system is so complicated and it has so many loopholes that businessmen and industrialists manage to escape paying billions of rupees in taxes. Then there are the smugglers who do not care for the country and are bent upon destroying our economy. Every large city has black markets that do business worth billions of rupees.

Black money to the tune of 180 billion rupees is not a trifle. Should such a large capital be available for investment, our industrial production could be increased geometrically. We could undertake many developmental plans. This black money, however, is being used for buying gold or is causing astronomical increase in real estate prices. We need a short term plan to help "clean" this black money, and long range plans to close all the loopholes that give birth to this black money in the first place.

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CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER ARMS SMUGGLING

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 13 Feb 87 p 9

[Editorial: "Heavy Responsibility of Ministry of Interior"]

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has expressed concern over smuggling of weapons in the country and has instructed the minister of interior to take effective steps to curb smuggling and illegal use of arms.

The prime minister met with deputations of assembly members from Sarhad [Northwest Frontier Province] and Sind in this connection. Assembly members from Sarhad told the prime minister that arms were being manufactured on a large scale in tribal areas of Sarhad and dangerous weapons were being smuggled from across the Sarhad border. These weapons are then sent to Sind via Punjab using trucks, buses, cars, and trains. Later these arms and ammunition are distributed among various regional factions. They told the prime minister that this illegal arms trade was supported by influential people and high government officials and law enforcement agencies did not dare to confront these people. Sind's assembly members also confirmed widespread sale of weapons and requested the prime minister to attend to this problem soon. The prime minister assured these deputations that the government will not delay action to alleviate this problem. According to news media sources, the prime minister called the federal minister of interior to his chamber right after these deputations left and ordered him to deploy all available resources to stop the smuggling of weapons. It is sad to note that the ministry of interior should be directly aware of all these impossible things happening in our country. This ministry does not need another person or agency to inform it of such activities. There are dozens of agencies under the minister of interior which are responsible for collecting information at various levels. The minister of interior can learn even about a "slight movement of a leaf." Against this background, the statement of the visiting assembly members that these smugglers are backed by influential people is very important. Law enforcement agencies do not dare to point these people out. The truth is that the law and order situation in our country has deteriorated so much and the contraband arms are so abundant that life for the people has become impossible. We have tried to get government's attention to this serious situation more than once. To us the only way to stop this overflow of weapons is to first recall all licensed weapons of illegal bores. This should be followed by surprise raids on homes and establishment of check points for

weapons. We are sure that the people will cooperate with the government for their security.

The present situation indicates that the ministry of interior is not interested in collecting information and anti-social elements are active openly because of the lax implementation of the law. As the result of this negligence P akistan has changed into a weapon-infested hell just like a Latin American country. It is both surprising and distressing to note that arms manufactured in the tribal areas and smuggled in from Afghanistan reach Karachi by some well-organized plan. Either the law enforcement agencies are fooled by the smugglers or they are cooperating with them. How is it possible that these weapons are never apprehended between Landi Kotal and Karachi -- a distance of several thousand miles? Antinational and antisocial elements have succeeded in killing many people in various riots in Karachi, Hyderabad, and rural areas of Sind. Perhaps, we will never be able to get rid of the hatred these elements have succeeded in spreading among various factions in our society. The ministry of interior is ineffective not only in stopping the illegal weapon trade, it has also failed in identifying those gangs of foreign agents that carry out antinational activities so successfully. There cannot be any worse proof of the inefficiency of this ministry than the fact that other international intelligence agencies manage to inform instigating groups about various activities long before Pakistani agencies even know about it. The hijacking of the PAN AM airplane last September resulted from ministry of interior's negligence. It is a fact that a cold war started between India and Pakistan as a result of the killing of the Indian passengers in this incident. This cold war later became so serious that both countries started movement of troops on their borders. Pakistan is still suffering from the aftermath of that incident. The situation is getting worse by the day within the country in a very mysterious way. There are several political powers actively engaged in breaking up Pakistan. Pakistan and the founders of Pakistan are insulted openly. Slogans calling "break up Pakistan" are openly raised. G.M. Sayyed who wrote the book, "Pakistan Should be Broken Up," is not arrested by the police and no one tries to stop him from staging his birthday party for making unpatriotic speeches. On the contrary, when there is a minor legal infraction, the whole law enforcement agencies suddenly become so active that it appears they are trying to make things worse on purpose. It appears that all groups have united to force the present government to fail. Political leaders pick someone and blame him for every problem in the country and force him to resign from his position. Not on person, however, has asked the minister of interior if he has any responsibility. The present situation demands that the minister of interior start accepting his responsibilities and explain the state of affairs to the National Assembly.

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PAPER LAUDS PUNJAB BAN ON ARMS LICENSES

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 2 Mar 87 p 10

[Editorial: "A Laudable Decision"]

[Text] According to an order of Punjab government issuance of new licenses to carry weapons have been banned and those holding foreign licenses have been advised to deposit their weapons with the nearest police station or with registered dealers. In the light of the negative attitudes that have emerged because of the stockpiling of illegal weapons in our country, we had repeatedly requested the government to curb illegal weapons and totally ban issuing licenses for new weapons. Thank God that the Punjab government made this decision, even though a little late. The chief minister's secretary revealed in the press conference that 400,000 new licenses were issued during the last year only. This is a record number. Ever since the elected representatives started the system of issuing licenses to make people in their constituencies happy, some unsavory elements have also been able to get licenses. This liberal policy also encouraged stockpiling of illegal foreign weapons. This had made the life of citizens impossible as weapons were flaunted almost everywhere.

Now that the government has made this commendable decision, we would like to advise that it just is not enough to stop issuing new licenses or checking for illegal weapons. It is important to cancel the licenses issued to carry weapons of banned dimensions. Such licenses were obtained by influential people to inspire awe and scare their opponents. It is important that they be made to return their illegal weapons as it only encourages people who are hording such weapons and cause restlessness among people. It is also necessary to limit the number of arm dealers because there has been a dramatic increase in such dealerships due to the liberal issuance of licenses. There are several weapon dealers in one market in large cities. Rioters and instigators steal weapons from such dealers for their use. This problem requires attention for the sake of peace. We hope that the government will investigate these issues and take effective steps.

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